

## COUNCIL

23 APRIL 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 22 January 2015 and provides details of the following meetings:

- Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 3 February 2015
- Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 January 2015 and 25 March 2015
- Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27 January 2015 and 31 March 2015
- Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 29 January 2015 and 7 April 2015

#### 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

2.1 3 February 2015

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=2951&Ver=4>

2.1.1 **Report title**                      **Attendance of the Leader of the Council**

**Outcome:**

The Committee thanked the Leader for his attendance and noted his report.

2.1.2	<b>Report title</b>	<b>Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services</b>
	<b>Outcome:</b>	The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services for his attendance and noted his report.
2.1.3	<b>Report title</b>	<b>Update on Medway Norse</b>
	<b>Outcome:</b>	The Committee noted the report
2.1.4	<b>Report title</b>	<b>Six Monthly Review of Welfare Reform Task Group Review</b>
	<b>Outcome:</b>	The Committee noted the progress made against the actions from the review and placed on record its thanks to Fawad Bhatti for his work on this initiative.
2.1.5	<b>Report title</b>	<b>Housing Revenue Account - Capital and Revenue Budgets 2015/2016</b>
	<b>Outcome:</b>	<p>The Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) a proposed average rent increase of 2.2% for the housing stock as set out in Appendix A to the report (based upon 50 collection weeks) and a rent increase of 1.2% for garages.</li> <li>2) the harmonisation of all garage rents, charging across all garage sites managed by the HRA Service specifically those as set out as per Appendix B to the report.</li> <li>3) that the service charges and increases as set out in appendix C of the report for 2015/16 be approved</li> <li>4) that the revenue budget for the HRA Service for 2015/16 as per Appendix D to the report be approved.</li> <li>5) that the provision for the repayment debt continues to be based on a minimum revenue payment of 2% on the 2015/2016 HRA opening outstanding debt.</li> <li>6) that a three year capital programme as set out in paragraph 8.5 of this report be agreed.</li> <li>7) to increase the 2015/16 HRA housing building development programme amount by the 2014/2015 MRP payment as set out in paragraph 9.4 of the report.</li> <li>8) to adopt the attached HRA Business Plan 2014 – 2044 as at Appendix E to the report.</li> </ol>

### **Outcome of Cabinet discussion**

The Cabinet agreed that recommendations 1) to 7) from the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee set out above be recommended to Council.

*(NB - these recommendations were subsequently agreed by the Council at its meeting held on 26 February 2015.)*

The Cabinet adopted the attached HRA Business Plan 2014 – 2044 as set out in Appendix E to the report.

#### 2.1.6 **Report title**                    **Capital Budget Monitoring 2014/15 - Round 2**

##### **Outcome:**

The Committee agreed to note:

- (1) the spending forecasts summarised at Table 1 in the report;
- (2) the £1.0 million virement referred to at 6.1 in the report;
- (3) the new approvals referred to at 6.2 in the report

#### 2.1.7 **Report title**                    **Revenue Budget Monitoring 2014/15- Round 2**

##### **Outcome:**

The Committee agreed to note the forecast outturn position from the latest round of 2014/15 revenue monitoring and Cabinet's declared moratorium in response

#### 2.1.8 **Report title**                    **Capital and Revenue Budgets 2015/16**

##### **Outcome:**

The Committee agreed to note the draft capital and revenue budgets for 2015/16, proposed by Cabinet on 2 December 2014, insofar as they affected the Committee.

#### 2.1.9 **Report title**                    **Draft Capital and Revenue Budget Proposals 2015/2106 (Report back from other Overview and Scrutiny Committees)**

##### **Outcome:**

The Committee:

- (1) noted the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the budget
- (2) agreed to support the recommendation made by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee that Cabinet reinstate 2 WTE vacant administrative posts in the Mental Health Social Work Team and to forward this decision to Cabinet

2.1.10. **Report title**                    **Refresh of Council Plan Indicators 2015/2016**

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the Council Plan Indicators for 2015-16 and Key projects for 2015-16 and agreed that the following comments be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration on 10 February 2015:

- *The percentage of children permanently excluded from school*  
It was suggested this be removed as many schools were outside the control of the council and also the target was difficult to understand. Members asked if it could be expressed as both the number of children and a percentage and also clarify that it related to all schools including academies. Other members felt that the target should be retained as it was still a useful statistic for the council to be aware of even if it did relate to non council controlled schools. It was agreed the target should be made more meaningful and retained. .
- *Percentage children who were absent from school for more than 15 percent of the school year*  
Again it was suggested this be removed but other members argued against this and for its retention particularly as it was a key indicator for Ofsted to scrutinise. Officers agreed to clarify if it related to authorised and unauthorised absences, express the target in terms of numbers and clarify if academies were included. Members questioned whether 85% was too low and impacted on school performance.
- *Carer satisfaction with adult social care services*  
It was agreed that the target should be retained at its current level of 46% otherwise moving to the national average of 42.7% represented a drop.
- *The percentage of service users who report they have control over their daily life*  
It was agreed this should be retained provided it could be demonstrated that this was a meaningful target and did not involve any additional work for officers given that it formed part of a survey the Council was required to undertake.
- *The proportion of carers who felt that they had been included or consulted in discussions about the person they care for*  
It was agreed that the current target of 75% should be retained.
- *Percentage of opiate users that left drug treatment successfully (free of drug(s) of dependence)*  
Members felt this target appeared to have been set at a very low level. Confirmation would be sought from the Director of Public Health that the target was appropriate and had been built into the new contract.
- *Number of cardiovascular health checks completed.*  
Members queried the relevance to the council of cardiovascular checks but proposed no change after the commissioning role of public health in this matter was explained.

### **Outcome of Cabinet discussion**

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Council Plan Indicators for 2015-16 and Key Projects for 2015-16.

The Cabinet accepted the specific recommendations by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee and recommended these to Full Council accordingly:

- (i) *“Carer satisfaction with adult social care services”* – retain target at its current level of 46%.
- (ii) *“The proportion of carers who felt that they had been included or consulted in discussions about the person they care for”* – retain target at its current level of 75%.

The Cabinet accepted the specific recommendation by officers in response to comments of the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee to amend the indicator:

*“Percentage of children who were absent from school for more than 15 percent of the school year”* to be replaced with:

*“the percentage of children who were persistently absent from school”* and the target be changed to *“TBC”* and recommended this to Full Council accordingly.

The Cabinet noted that Members of the the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed with the overall proposals and felt it compared favourably with previous versions of the Council Plan scrutinised by the Committee.

The Cabinet recommended the revised Council Plan 2015-2016 Indicators (Appendix 1 to the report) and the Target Profile document (Appendix 2 to the report), to Full Council for approval.

The Cabinet recommended to Full Council to delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, authority to deal with any necessary changes to align the Plan to the agreed budget, including any updates required to the Council Plan document.

*(NB - the above mentioned recommendations to Council were subsequently agreed by the Council at its meeting held on 26 February 2015.)*

#### **2.1.11 Report title Call in of the Housing Strategy**

##### **Outcome:**

The Committee agreed to take no further action in respect of the call in of the Cabinet decision (200/2014) to approve the Draft Housing Strategy 2015-2018 and delegate 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.

2.1.12 **Report title**      **Petitions**

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the petition responses and appropriate officer actions in paragraph 3 of the report and referred the petitions and responses to the Asset Management Group for information.

2.1.13 **Report title**      **Work programme**

**Outcome:**

The Committee:

- (1) noted and identify items for inclusion in the work programme;
- (2) agreed the changes to the work programme as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report
- (3) noted the work programmes of all overview and scrutiny committees (set out in appendix 2 to the report).
- (4) noted there will be insufficient time to start and conclude the Task Group on housing in Medway before the local elections on 7 May 2015.
- (5) agreed that the member group looking at prospective topics for Task Groups after the elections be advised of this Committee's view that the first Group established should be the Housing in Medway Task Group.

**3. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

3.1 14 January 2015

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=2969>

3.1.1 **Report title**      Medway Children Action Network

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.2 **Report title**      Medway Action for Families

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.3 **Report title** Update on the School Nursing Service

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.4 **Report title** Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services

**Outcome:**

The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services for his attendance and recommended that written representation be made to the Department for Education in relation to the official terminology 'de-planned cases', suggesting this be reviewed.

3.1.5 **Report title** School Admission Arrangements 2016

**Outcome:**

The Committee recommended the proposed admissions arrangements and schemes, as set out in the report, to the Cabinet at its meeting on 10 February 2015.

**Outcome of Cabinet discussion**

The Cabinet noted the outcome of the consultation process and the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and approved the proposed admissions arrangements and schemes as set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to the Cabinet report.

3.1.6 **Report title** Work Programme

**Outcome:**

The Committee agreed to add the following items to the March meeting of the Committee: -

- Sufficiency of placements for looked after children
- Outcomes of the Medway Youth Parliament Conference 2014

3.2 25 March 2015  
<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=2970>

3.2.1 **Report title** Medway Youth Parliament Annual Conference findings

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report and thanked the Medway Youth Parliament for their detailed presentation.

3.2.2 **Report title** Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) – update report

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report.

3.2.3 **Report title** Update on Medway’s Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report.

3.2.4 **Report title** Support for Care Leavers Task Group

**Outcome:**

The Committee agreed the report, subject to the recent statutory guidance on promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children being referenced, and recommended it to the Cabinet on 14 April 2015, and the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to recommendation 1, for approval.

**Outcome of Cabinet discussion**

The Cabinet agreed all of the Task Group’s recommendations.

3.2.5 **Report title** Sufficiency Report 2015-16

**Outcome:**

The Committee recommended the sufficiency report 2015-16, as attached at Appendix A, to the Cabinet on 14 April 2015 for approval, subject to the typographical error being corrected.



### **Outcome of Cabinet discussion**

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agreed the Sufficiency Report as set out in Appendix A to the Cabinet report.

3.2.6 **Report title** Update on Early Help

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report.

3.2.7 **Report title** Proposed development of an integrated Children's Community Nursing Service for Medway and Swale

**Outcome:**

The Committee agreed that the proposals were a substantial service reconfiguration and would therefore receive a further report at a future meeting of the Committee.

3.2.8 **Report title** Council Plan Quarter 3 2014/15 performance monitoring report

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report.

3.2.9 **Report title** Work Programme

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report.

**4. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**4.1 27 January 2015**

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MIId=2998>

**4.1.1 Report title Review of progress in relation to the Medway Mental Health Social Work Team and objectives**

**Outcome:**

The Committee thanked officers for the report and endorsed the recommendation made at the previous meeting to recommend the Cabinet to reinstate 2 whole time equivalent (WTE) posts in the Mental Health Social Work Team.

**Outcome of Cabinet discussion:**

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 10 February 2015. The Cabinet agreed the following:

The Cabinet authorised the recruitment to the 2 WTE vacant administrative posts in the Mental Health Social Work Team that remain funded.

**4.1.2. Report title Medway Foundation Trust**

**Outcome:**

- (a) The Acting Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer from Medway NHS Foundation Trust were thanked for their attendance and report; and
- (b) The Healthwatch Medway representative undertook to share with the Committee and Medway NHS Foundation Trust their findings in relation to patient experience at the hospital.

**4.1.3. Report title                    Acute Mental Health Inpatient Beds Update**

**Outcome:**

- (a) The report was noted;
- (b) It was agreed that the additional information from Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust and Healthwatch Medway/Megan (a service user group) outlined in the discussion during the meeting, is submitted to the next meeting.

**4.1.4 Report title                    Dementia Strategy**

**Outcome:**

- (a) The Committee noted the update on the changes to the Dementia Strategy made to improve the quality of life for people living with dementia in Medway;
- (b) The Committee referred the Dementia Strategy to Cabinet on 10 February 2015 for approval.

**Outcome of Cabinet discussion:**

This matter was considered by the Cabinet on 10 February 2015. The Cabinet agreed the following:

The Cabinet noted:

- (i) The actions outlined in the Dementia Strategy made to improve the quality of life for people living with dementia in Medway;
- (ii) The comments of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Cabinet approved the Dementia Strategy as attached as appendix 1 to the report.

4.2 **31 March 2015**

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=2999>

4.2.1 **Report title**            **Member's Item – Community Meals Project**

**Outcome:**

The report was noted.

4.2.2 **Report title**            **Care Quality Commission – Approach to Inspection of GP Services**

**Outcome:**

The representative from the Care Quality Commission was thanked for her presentation and the report was noted.

4.2.3 **Report title**            **Acute Mental Health Inpatient Beds Review Update**

**Outcome:**

(a) A report be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible about the shared cost of out of area placements to both Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust and NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group;

(b) The report was noted.

4.2.4 **Report title**            **Urgent Care Review Update**

**Outcome:**

The report was noted.

4.2.5 **Report title**            **Patient Transport Update**

**Outcome:**

The report was noted.

4.2.6 **Report title** **South East Coast Ambulance Trust Update on Emergency Operations Centres**

**Outcome:**

The report was noted.

4.2.7 **Report title** **Council Plan Q3 2014/2015 Performance Monitoring Report**

**Outcome:**

The quarter 3 performance against the Key Measures of Success were noted

4.2.8. **Report title** **Work Programme**

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the amendment to the line in the report on page 123 of the agenda and that there would be an update on the Care Act for the next meeting.

**5. Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

5.1 **29 January 2015**

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MIId=3060>

5.1.1 **Report title** **Petitions**

**Outcome:**

- (a) The Committee noted the petition response and appropriate officer actions in paragraph 3 of the report; and
- (b) The Committee recommended no further action be taken in respect of the petition but that officers would keep the area of Kingsfrith Fields Park under regular inspection and review.

**5.1.2 Report title Attendance of the Leader**

**Outcome:**

- (a) The Leader was thanked for his attendance and response to Member questions and congratulated on obtaining the £4.4m for the Rochester Airport works;
- (b) Officers were asked to investigate the possibility of using the old Dockyard railway line as a transport corridor.

**5.1.3. Report title Attendance by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services**

**Outcome:**

- (a) The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services was thanked for his presentation and for responding to Members' questions;
- (b) A briefing note was requested in relation to the rolling programme for play area improvements;
- (c) A visit for the Committee to be able to see the planned improvements to Eastgate House, the Dickens Chalet and Gardens will be arranged at a suitable point.

**5.1.4. Report title Annual Review of Waste Contracts**

**Outcome:**

The Committee welcomed the provision of a trade waste facility in Medway and requested further briefings in future with a possible visit, after May 2015, to recycling and transfer facilities.

**5.1.5. Report title An assessment of the cost of bus travel in Medway**

**Outcome:**

Further to the motion passed unanimously at Council the Committee noted that Medway had higher bus fares than other areas and requested that the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services and senior officers meet with operators to discuss the impact their fares are having on consumers.

**5.1.6. Report title Timing of bus routes and bus punctuality**

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report and requested officers to work with bus operators to improve the quality of bus punctuality including the use of parking enforcement and liaison with the Police where appropriate.

**5.1.7. Report title                      Member's item: Town Centre Markets**

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the report and answers provided and requested that the market officers' plans for expansion should be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

**5.1.8. Report title                      Provision of a Neighbourhood Community Hub in Twydall**

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the current position concerning the establishment of a Neighbourhood Community Hub facility at Twydall, and noted the support of senior Members of the Council for this project.

**5.1.9. Report title                      Work Programme**

**Outcome:**

- (a) The current work programme was noted;
- (b) A Member's item from Councillor Griffiths in relation to the impact of the closure of Tesco (and other stores) in Chatham (covering the impact of redundancy for the staff and impact on the economic offer in Chatham alongside the potential for regeneration) was added to the work programme.

5.2 **7 April 2015**

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=3061>

5.2.1. **Report title**                      **Petitions**

**Outcome:**

In considering the petition relating to the speed of vehicles travelling along Watling Street, it had been suggested that the Committee recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services that he consider introducing a 30mph speed limit with the necessary traffic measures and signs warning motorists not to exceed to the 30mph limit but this proposal was not supported by the Committee.

- a) The Committee noted the petition responses and appropriate officer actions as set out in paragraph 3 of the report; and
- b) The Committee thanked each lead petitioner for attending the meeting and agreed the following actions:

Speed of vehicles travelling along Watling Street, Strood

- i) That Officers be requested to look at the design features that could be improved for pedestrians and the possible provision of permanent speed indication signs in Watling Street, Strood; and
- ii) The Kent and Medway Camera Partnership be approached with a request that Watling Street, Strood be included on the programme for traffic speed enforcement

The proposed shared use bay installation for York Avenue, Gillingham

- i) That the shared use bay scheme proceed as planned on the basis that a review be undertaken after 6 months of operation with the outcome of the review being reported back to this Committee and the lead petitioner being invited to attend the meeting;
- ii) Officers investigate the current direction signage to Medway Hospital having regard to the concerns expressed;
- iii) Further discussions be undertaken with Medway NHS Foundation Trust regarding options for further parking provision

Resurfacing of New Road, Chatham to help reduce excessive tyre on road noise

Officers be requested to undertake noise tests before and after the planned resurfacing of a section of the South side of New Road is undertaken



Improving access to the River Medway at the Strand, Gillingham

Officers be requested to investigate potential sources of funding for maintenance works to the Commodore Hard Causeway at the Strand, Gillingham, including the possible use of Section 106 funding.

Adoption of Florence Street, Strood

- i) The Director approach the Local Government Association and seek information as to how other local authorities deal with the issue of unadopted roads in their areas and in particular historic unadopted roads.
- ii) A report be submitted to a future meeting on how adopted roads have been adopted in Medway in the recent past.

The replacement of barriers to woods in Fowey Close, Lordswood, Chatham.

It be noted that the Assistant Director – Front Line Services will refer the site to the Kent Police Motorcycle Team and in the meantime, will meet with the lead petitioner to discuss whether there are possible options available to reduce access of motorcycles into the woods and a report be submitted to the next meeting on the outcome.

5.2.2. **Report title** **Council Plan 2014/2015 Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring Report**

**Outcome:**

The Quarter 3 2014/15 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/15 be noted.

5.2.3. **Report title** **Chatham Waterfront Update**

**Outcome:**

The report be noted

**5.2.4. Report title                      Member's item – Closure of Tesco's Store in Chatham**

**Outcome:**

- a) The report be noted
- b) Council Officers continue to liaise with Tesco and provide support where possible and appropriate to minimise the disruption to the town centre's offer. This will include Property and Planning Teams and where necessary employment support through JCP in conjunction with Employ Medway; and
- c) Should a new user not be found within 6 months a report be submitted to the Committee on future options for the whole site

**5.2.5 Report Title                      Work Programme**

**Outcome:**

The current work programme be noted and it be noted that as a result of decisions at this meeting, the following items will be added to the work programme arising from decision at this meeting:

1. A report be on the shared use bay in York Avenue after 6 months of operation of the scheme;
2. A report on how adopted roads have been adopted in Medway in the recent past;
3. A report to the next meeting on the outcome of the meeting between the Assistant Director Front Line Services with the Lead Petitioner in Fowey Close regarding possible replacement barrier to the woods to deter motorcycles.
4. Should a new user not be found within 6 months for the Tesco store in Chatham, a report be submitted to the Committee on future options for the whole site.

**Background papers**

None

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