

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 AUGUST 2015

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer

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 A to this report sets out the existing work programme for this 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 16 July 2015.

3.2 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Spokespersons were updated on the committee's current work programme and advised on the reports to be submitted to this meeting.

3.3 At the agenda planning meeting, it was reported that later in 2015 the Air Quality Action Plan will be submitted to Cabinet. It had been suggested that if this Committee wished to see this report, that it be submitted to the Committee on 10 December 2015. This was supported by those at the agenda planning meeting.

- 3.4 Since the agenda planning meeting, Officers have advised that the Annual Action Plan reviewing the progress of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be scheduled for the September meeting.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 27 July 2015. Set out below is a list of items featuring on the Forward Plan that fall within the terms of reference of the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee is asked to identify any items it wishes to consider before the Cabinet decision is taken (where dates permit), other than those already programmed in Appendix A.

<u>Title of Decision:</u>	<u>Anticipated Decision Date:</u>
Council Plan Monitoring 2015/2016 – Quarter 1	25 August 2015
South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee – Monitoring Report April 2015 – August 2015	23 September 2015
South Thames Gateway Building Control Business Plan 2016/2019	23 September 2015
Capital and Revenue Budgets 2016/2017	24 November 2015
Council Plan Monitoring 2015/2016 – Quarter 2	24 November 2015
Medway Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation	24 November 2015

5. Selection of next round of scrutiny Task Group topics

- 5.1 On 25 June 2015, the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the process for selection of topics for the next round of in-depth reviews to be undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Task Groups. A total of three in-depth reviews can be supported annually on the basis of the Task Groups running successively, each with a 20 week programme of activity.
- 5.2 It has been unanimously agreed by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the first Task Group in the 2015/16 municipal year should undertake an in-depth review into Housing: Demand, Affordability and Supply. This topic was selected for the last round of in depth reviews and was delayed because it could not have concluded its work before the local elections in May 2015. This Task Group will be cross-cutting covering housing strategy and services which are within the remit of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as the strategic planning issues associated with housing such as the Local Plan and affordable housing targets which fall within the remit of the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Therefore, it has been agreed membership of the Task Group (on the basis of 3 x Con:

1 x Lab and 1 x UKIP) should be drawn from both Committees with the final recommendations going back to both Committees before referral to Cabinet. The Task Group will start its work in late August/early September following conclusion of the post-election Member Induction programme and the school holidays.

- 5.3 During July, August and September, in line with established practice, it has been agreed that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be invited to put forward suggestions for further Task Group topics using the criteria based approach adopted by the Council as set out in Appendix 2 to this report. Following this, an informal discussion between all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Opposition Spokespersons will take place and then the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider the long list of topics at its meeting on 3 December and agree a programme of two reviews for the period January to September 2016 based on an indicative timescale of 20 weeks for each.
- 5.4 As the Task Group on Housing falls within the scope of this Committee it is envisaged that the two topics for Task Group activity from January to September 2016 are likely to be on a health and adult social care related topic and a children and young people related topic. This Committee is able to also suggest topics which could be listed for consideration in a later round of reviews. Any suggestions will be discussed at the next Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda planning meeting and reported back to the Committee on 29 September for referral onto the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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 support the suggestion from the agenda planning meeting that the Air Quality Monitoring Report be added to the Committee's Work programme for 10 December 2015
- 7.2 The Committee is requested to note that the Annual Action Plan reviewing the progress of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be reported to the Committee on 29 September 2015.
- 7.3 The Committee is asked to note the current work programme and identify any additional items for inclusion in the work programme.

Appendices

Appendix A – Work programme

Appendix B – Criteria base for the selection of topics for Task Groups

Lead officer contact

Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 01634 332012 Email: ellen.wright@medway.gov.uk

Background papers

None.