

COUNCIL

12 AUGUST 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 23 April 2015 and provides details of the following meetings:

- Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 June 2015
- Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 21 July 2015
- Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 23 June 2015

Note. A report of the entry from Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 6 August 2015 will be reported to the Council in October.

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 25 June 2015

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=3156&Ver=4>

2.1.1 Report title Update on Medway Norse

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to note the report and asked for a briefing note on addressing problems at the Berengrave nature reserve.

2.1.2 Report title Procurement Strategy

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to

- (1) Note the progress made against the Procurement Strategy 2013-2016 and
- (2) Request briefing notes on
 - the breakdown of the £8.8m achieved in procurement savings,
 - feedback received from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) about their experience in the procurement process and
 - the possibility of benchmarking performance on procurement with similar councils.

2.1.3 Report title Topics for In-Depth Scrutiny Reviews – Priorities and Timetable

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed:

- (1) That a Task Group on housing: demand, supply and affordability in Medway should be the first to commence in late August/ early September 2015 and that the membership of this Group should be five Councillors (in the ratio 3:1:1) to be drawn from this Committee and the Regeneration, Community and Culture O & S Committee.
- (2) The process and timetable for the selection of the next round of in-depth reviews as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

2.1.4 **Report title** **Work Programme**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- (1) Note the work programme;
- (2) Agree the changes to the work programme as detailed in paragraphs 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 of the report and
- (3) Note the work programmes of all overview and scrutiny committees (set out in appendix 2 to the report).

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

3.1 21 July 2015

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MIId=3226&Ver=4>

3.1.1 **Report title** **Update on re-commissioning of short breaks provision for children with disabilities and the local offer**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.2 **Report title** **Ofsted inspection of the Local Authority’s arrangements for school improvement**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the OFSTED letter on the inspection of Medway’s school improvement arrangements, and the response to the areas for improvement.

3.1.3 **Report title** **Update on progress in relation to the Children’s Safeguarding Improvement Notice**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the progress made and the continued implementation of the Improvement Plan.

3.1.4 Report title Recruitment, retention and workforce development in Children's Social Care

Outcome:

The Committee noted the impact of the workforce development strategy and the continuing priorities of the strategy.

3.1.5 Report title Update on the Medway Children's and Young People Emotional Wellbeing Strategy

Outcome:

The Committee noted the update on the development of Medway Children's and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Strategy.

3.1.6 Report title Complaints and compliments annual report – April 2014-March 2015

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.7. Report title: Council Plan Year End 2014/2015 – Performance monitoring report

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.8 Report title Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee agreed:

- (a) The work programme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report subject to the additions to the work programme, as set out in paragraph 3.3 in the report.
- (b) To receive a briefing note in October relating to the sufficiency of secondary school places.
- (c) That its Members submit ideas and suggestions for an in-depth scrutiny topic to the Democratic Services Officer, ahead of the agenda planning meeting (scheduled for 9 September 2015) for the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 22 September 2015.

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

4.1 23 June 2015

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=3154>

4.1.1 **Report title** **Medway NHS Foundation Trust**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

4.1.2 **Report title** **Acute Mental Health Inpatient Beds**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed that:

- (a) With immediate effect KMPT should be invited only to alternate meetings of the Committee; and
- (b) A cross-party meeting be arranged to enable Members to discuss a different approach to scrutinising KMPT.

4.1.3 **Report title** **Member's item – Care in the Community**

Outcome:

The Committee requested that a more detailed report from the Deputy Director, Children and Adult Services be programmed for the next meeting setting out how quality and value for money was monitored.

4.1.4 **Report title** **Adult Complaints Annual Report**

Outcome:

The Committee recommended the Assistant Director, Communications, Performance and Partnerships to consider extending the deadline for responses to complaints to 20 days.

4.1.5 **Report title** **Care Act Update**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

4.1.6 Report title Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee agreed that:

(a) The work programme should be amended to reflect the following:

- Attendance to be arranged for alternate meetings only for KMPT (their next attendance to be 1 October 2015)
- A report be added to the business for the next meeting setting out more detail relating to care in the community

(b) Members send any suggestions for in depth scrutiny task group topics to the Democratic Services Officer by 23 July 2015.

Background papers

None

Appendices

None

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