

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 SEPTEMBER 2015

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 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 8 September 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 the item on the Road Maintenance Budget for the next 6 years along with information on the National Highways and Transport Survey was now scheduled for submission to the meeting of the Committee on 29 March 2016. This was supported by those at the agenda planning meeting.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 28 August 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>
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
South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee Monitoring Report: September 2015 – November	10 December 2015
South Thames Gateway Building Control Annual Audit and Inspection Letter	10 December 2015
South Thames Gateway Building Control Business Plan 2016 – 2017	10 December 2015
Air Quality Action Plan	15 December 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 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. Membership of the Task Group has been drawn from both Committees and the final recommendations will be reported back to both Committees before referral to Cabinet.

- 5.3 At its last meeting on 6 August 2015, this Committee was invited to put forward suggestions for further Task Group topics using the criteria based approach adopted by the Council. Following this, an informal discussion between all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Opposition Spokespersons would take place and then the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee would 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.
- 5.3 On 6 August, it was stressed that as the Task Group on Housing falls within the scope of this Committee it was envisaged that the two topics for Task Group activity from January to September 2016 would likely be on a health and adult social care related topic and a children and young people related topic. However, this Committee was invited to suggest topics which could be listed for consideration in a later round of reviews.
- 5.4 At the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda planning meeting it was reported that at its meeting on 22 September the Children and Young People (CYP) Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be considering a suggestion for a Task Group on Employment Opportunities for 18 year olds. This would be a cross cutting topic between the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Regeneration Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Having considered this, the members in attendance at the Regeneration, Community and Culture agenda planning meeting were supportive and suggested that the work of the Task Group be expanded to include Employment Opportunities for graduate 21 year olds. (This suggestion has been conveyed to the CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee.). The Committee is asked to consider and support the suggestion for a Task Group on Employment Opportunities for 18-21 year olds including apprenticeships. (Note: the addition of apprenticeships was suggested at the agenda planning meeting for the CYP 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 that the report on the Road Maintenance Budget for the next 6 years along with information on the National Highways and Transport Survey be reported to the Committee on 29 March 2016
- 7.2 The Committee is asked to note the current work programme and identify any additional items for inclusion in the work programme.
- 7.3 The Committee is requested to support the suggestion for a cross-cutting RCC/CYP Task Group on Employment Opportunities for 18 to 21years olds (including apprenticeships)

Appendices

Appendix A – Work programme

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Background papers

None.