

COUNCIL

21 JANUARY 2016

REPORT ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services

Summary

This report provides a summary of the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees since the last report to Council on 15 October 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. Weblinks are provided under each section throughout this report.

2. Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2.1 8 October 2015

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=3261>

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

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the Risk Management Strategy, as set out in Appendix A to the report.
- b) note the Management Team's recommendations on amendments to the Council's Risk Register as detailed in section 3 of the report.
- c) note the progress of the recommendations from the Risk Management Audit 2014/2015 as detailed in paragraph 3.10 of the report.

- d) request that the narrative for Risk SR03b (Finances) be updated to reflect the recent announcement from the Chancellor regarding local government finance allowing councils to retain all the money they raise from business rates, given the uncertainties which now existed about how local government finance would be calculated.
- e) ask Cabinet to consider as a new risk the impact of the European Union referendum in terms of potential access by the Council to EU funding and the risk to existing programmes.
- f) ask Cabinet to consider as a new risk within SR17 (Delivering Regeneration) the consequences of not achieving the target of 17,000 new homes.
- g) provide a briefing note to all members of the Committee with regard to risk SR 25. 01 on how the Council was ensuring that clients fully understood how to use their personal budgets and risk SR26.06 details of the projects including start and end dates.

2.1.2 Report title Council Plan Quarter 1 2015/2016 Performance Monitoring

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the Quarter 1 2015/16 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2015/16.

2.1.3 Report title Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Council Statement of Gambling Policy

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to

- (a) endorse the amendments made and refer the amended policy to Cabinet and then Council in accordance with the policy framework rules.
- (b) write, on a cross party basis, to the Minister of Sport calling for a significant reduction in the maximum stake size allowed in respect of B2 fixed odds betting terminals.
- (c) place on record its appreciation of the work of the Assistant Director – Legal and Corporate Services and his team in addressing the negative effects of gambling on individuals and communities.

2.1.4 Report title Procurement Strategy

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the progress made against the Procurement Strategy 2013-16.

2.1.5 Report title Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/2020

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the underlying aims of the Medium Term Financial Plan;
- b) note the forecast level of overall funding outlined in Section 4 of the report; spending priorities in Section 5 and the consequent funding shortfall identified in Table 2 of the report.
- c) request a briefing note giving more detail on base budgets across the medium term, in particular distinguishing between pay and non pay costs down to service line detail.

2.1.6 Report title Capital Budget Monitoring 2015/2016 – Quarter 1

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the forecast outturn position and proposed management actions following round 1 of the quarterly capital monitoring report for 2015/16.
- b) request a briefing note on adaptations to school kitchens to facilitate the roll out of Universal Free School Meals.

2.1.7 Report title Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/2016 – Quarter 1

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the forecast outturn position and proposed management actions following round 1 of the quarterly revenue monitoring for 2015/16.
- b) ask for regular reports on management actions being taken to reduce the projected overspend, including the extent of the overspend and the service implications of the management actions.

2.1.8 Report title Localising Support for Council Tax

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report and the consultation being undertaken on the basis of the options set in the report.

- 2.1.9 Report title Work Programme**
- Outcome:**
- The Committee agreed to:
- (a) note and identify items for inclusion in the work programme;
 - (b) agree the changes to the work programme as detailed in paragraphs 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 of the report and
 - (c) note the work programmes of all overview and scrutiny committees (set out in appendix 2 to the report).
- 2.2 Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
- 2.2 3 December 2015**
- <http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/eListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=3262>
- 2.2.1 Report title Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services in attendance**
- Outcome:** The Committee agreed to note the report.
- 2.2.2 Report title Update on Medway NORSE**
- Outcome:**
- The Committee agreed to note the report.
- 2.2.3 Report title Council Plan Performance Monitoring Quarter 2 2015/2016**
- Outcome:**
- The Committee agreed to note the Quarter 2 2015/16 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2015/16.
- 2.2.4 Report title Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/2016**
- Outcome:**
- The Committee agreed to:
- (a) note the forecast outturn position and proposed management actions following round 2 of the revenue budget monitoring for 2015/16.
 - (b) request that for the 2016/2017 budget more detail be included about the assumptions underpinning draft budgets.

2.2.5 Report title Capital Budget Monitoring 2015/2016 – Quarter 2

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the forecast outturn position and proposed management actions following round 2 of the quarterly capital monitoring report for 2015/16
- b) ask that more narrative be supplied in future when capital schemes which have slipped are reported.

2.2.6 Report title Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2016/2017

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- (a) note the draft capital and revenue budgets for 2016/17, proposed by Cabinet on 24 November 2015, insofar as they affected this committee
- (b) write to the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the difficulties facing the Council as a result of the lateness of the provisional finance settlement.

2.2.7 Report title Housing Strategy Annual Review

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the progress against the aims of the Housing Strategy.

2.2.8 Report title Update on Responsible Gambling

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- (a) note the work undertaken in Medway at the request of the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee that culminated in the signing of a voluntary partnership agreement between the members of the Medway Responsible Gambling Partnership.
- (b) note the outcomes of a multi operator self-exclusion pilot scheme in Medway
- (c) ask for further updates to be provided to the Committee on the work of the Medway Responsible Gambling Partnership and the self-exclusion scheme.

2.2.9 **Report title** **Topics for in depth scrutiny reviews - 2016**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed that the programme of Task Group topics for 2016 should be as follows:

- (a) Review two (to follow the Task Group on Housing) to be led by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
How far has Medway gone in developing a dementia friendly community?
- (b) Review three to be cross-cutting with membership drawn from the Children and Young People and Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committees:
Employment Opportunities for 18-21 year olds (including apprenticeships)

2.2.10 **Report title** **Petitions**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the petition response and appropriate officer actions set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

2.2.11 **Report title** **Work Programme**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- (a) note the work programme (set out in appendix 1 to the report).
- (b) note the work programmes of all overview and scrutiny committees (set out in appendix 2 to the report).

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

3.1 8 December 2015

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=3228>

3.1.1 **Report title** **Medway Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-2015**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.2 Report title School Admission Arrangements 2017

Outcome:

The Committee recommended the proposed admission arrangements and schemes to the Cabinet for approval at its meeting on 15 December 2015.

Outcome of Cabinet:

3.1.3 Report title Council Plan Quarter 2 2015/2016 Performance Monitoring Report

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

3.1.4 Report title Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2016/2017

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and forwarded its comments to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting on 2 February 2016.

3.1.5 Report title Surestart Children's Centres and Early Childhood Outcomes 2015

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and thanked the Early Years service for its work and the impact it had made.

3.1.6 Report title Committee Membership: Added and Co-opted Members

Outcome:

The Committee recommended:

- a) the Director of Children and Adult Services to make representations to the Department for Education and Department for Communities and Local Government in relation to reviewing and updating the legislation regarding parent governor representatives, as detailed in section 3 of the report;
- b) the Council to agree revised arrangements for the appointment of a headteacher and teacher to the Committee as detailed in paragraphs 4.8 to 4.10 of the report, along with the selection criteria, as attached at Appendix C to the report;

- c) the Council to agree that the Medway Youth Parliament representative positions on the Committee are designated to specific roles on the MYP, as follows:
- The existing Chair of the Medway Youth Parliament
 - An existing member of the Medway Youth Parliament Cabinet
 - Substitute – an existing member of the Medway Youth Parliament Cabinet.

3.1.7 Report title Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee agreed the work programme, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to: -

- (a) The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services being moved to 3 March 2016 meeting;
- (b) The Annual Public Health Report being added to the agenda for 19 January 2016 meeting;
- (c) The proposed delivery model for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing services in Medway being added to the 3 March 2016 meeting;
- (d) The outcome of the Medway Youth Parliament 2015 annual conference being added to 3 March 2016 meeting;
- (e) The outcome of the Ofsted inspection into Children's Social Care Services being added to 19 January 2016 meeting;
- (f) The outcome of the consultation period for the expansion of Bligh Infant and Junior Schools being added to 19 January 2016 meeting.

4. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.1 17 December 2015

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&Mid=3257>

4.1.1 Report title: Report on the progress of the Improvement Plan for Medway NHS Foundation Trust

Outcome:

The Committee requested a report to the 26 January 2016 meeting on the Care Quality Commission inspection findings and next steps.

4.1.2 Report title: Joint Report on Complete Care Pathway from Admission to Discharge

Outcome:

The Committee agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and spokespersons of the Committee, with a representative from Adult Social Care, should arrange to meet with the Emergency Care Improvement Team from NHS Medway Foundation Trust on an agreed date in January 2016 to receive their feedback on their assessment of the way the system was coping with winter pressures.

4.1.3 **Report title:** **Personality Disorder Service**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed that the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, should write to Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust setting out their view that in any future innovations they should put in place a transparent financial business case, with appropriate key milestones and performance indicators in order to be able to assess whether the desired outcomes were being achieved.

4.1.4 **Report title:** **West Kent Neuro-Rehabilitation Centre (Knole Centre) Closure**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

4.1.5 **Report title:** **Supporting People at Home – Intermediate Care and Reablement Strategy**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the progress on the implementation of the Intermediate Care and Reablement Strategy and in particular the positive market response so far.

4.1.6 **Report title:** **Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2016/2017**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the draft capital and revenue budget for 2016/2017 proposed by Cabinet on 24 November 2015 and requested further details of proposals in relation to the 2% additional council tax to fund social care proposals once they are developed.

4.1.7 **Report title:** **Council Plan Quarter 2 2015/2016 Performance Monitoring Report**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the quarter two 2015/2016 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2015/2016 in relation to this Committee.

4.1.8. Report title:

Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee:

- (a) agreed that the Health and Wellbeing Board should be held to account on 26 March on progress against priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, to include an update from the planned Health and Wellbeing Board workshop to be held on 26 January 2016 on system performance across health and social care;
- (b) noted that the dementia commissioning intentions report would be considered on 26 January 2016;
- (c) noted that an organised visit to a selection of Medway venues by Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust would be arranged for 1.30pm on 21 January 2016 with the Deputy Director, Children and Adults and the Consultant in Public Health in attendance. Anyone interested in attending would need to contact the Democratic Services Officer by no later than 5 January 2016;
- (d) agreed that an initial letter be sent by the Chairman of the Committee to the Chief Executive of South East Coast Ambulance Trust expressing the Committee's concerns about the breach of its licence and the issue set out in the report relating to the defibrillator policy, requesting his attendance at the 17 March 2016 meeting to update the Committee on progress against the action plan developed by the Trust in response to the conditions imposed;
- (e) noted the update on selection of in-depth review topics set out in the report;
- (f) noted the details of the changes at Rochester Community Healthy Living Centre in Delce, relating to changed opening hours, as set out in the report;
- (g) added to the work programme for 26 January 2016 meeting a report on a review of 'blue light' conveyances for Swale residents;
- (h) noted the changes to the anti-coagulation clinic opening times across Medway as circulated to the Committee;
- (i) noted that Councillor McDonald would represent the Chairman at the Care Quality Commission Quality Summit to be held on the morning of 8 January 2016 at Priestfield Stadium in Gillingham; and
- (j) noted that there would be an update on patient transport to the 26 March 2016 meeting.

- 5. Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
- 5.1 **10 December 2015**
<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/eListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=3250>
- 5.1.1 **Report title:** **Petitions**
- Outcome:**
- The Committee:
- (a) noted the petition responses and appropriate officer actions set out in paragraph 3 of the report;
 - (b) having considered the petition request from Mr Grant and Mrs Watson, requested officers to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee setting out information on the 20s plenty scheme, along with information as to how successful this scheme had been in other local authority areas and the likely costs involved so that the Committee may consider whether it wishes to recommend to Cabinet or Council the introduction of the scheme either as an initial pilot or Medway wide in residential streets; and
 - (c) agreed that consideration of the petition concerning the provision of parking facilities after 6pm in Church Street, Chatham should be deferred on the basis that the lead petitioner had not attended the meeting.
- 5.1.2 **Report title:** **Annual Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership, including the Draft Community Safety Plan 2016 to 2020**
- Outcome:**
- The Committee:
- (a) thanked the members of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions;
 - (b) noted that as a Policy Framework document, the Community Safety Plan would be reported to Cabinet on 5 April 2016 and Cabinet would be asked to formally consider and recommend the proposed Plan for 2016 to 2010, containing new priorities for the CSP to Council on 28 April 2016; and
 - (c) noted the responses provided by the CSP on the issues outlined during discussion.

5.1.3 **Report title:** **Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services**

Outcome:

The Committee:

- (a) thanked the Portfolio Holder for attending the meeting and answering questions; and
- (b) requested officers to arrange a visit for all Councillors to the CCTV Control Centre in 2016.

5.1.4 **Report title:** **Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2016/2017**

Outcome:

The Committee:

- (a) noted the draft capital and revenue budget report for 2016/2017 insofar as it related to this Committee; and
- (b) recommended officers and Members to read the Local Government Association publication – ‘Transforming local public services using technology and digital tools and approaches’.

5.1.5 **Report title:** **Council Plan Quarter 2 2015/2016 Performance Monitoring Report**

Outcome:

The Committee:

- (a) noted the quarter 2 2015/2016 performance against key measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2016/16;
- (b) requested officers to ensure that when consulting on the Strood Town Centre Action Plan, account also be taken of the Air Quality Action Plan;
- (c) noted that the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture had agreed to provide further information in response to a question posed during the meeting concerning the Employment Fair; and
- (d) requested officers to provide information on the satisfaction levels for road maintenance and pavements as part of the report on the Road Maintenance Budget when that comes to Committee.

5.1.6 Report title: Air Quality Action Plan

Outcome:

The Committee:

- a) noted the Air Quality Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the report to fulfil the Council's statutory duty under the requirements of the Environment Act 1995 and supported referral to Cabinet for approval on 15 December 2015;
- b) noted that the Environmental Protection Officer would respond direct to Members on the following issues:
 - The Green Bus Fund
 - Reduced pollution certificates for HGVs and buses
 - Achieving Euro 6 emission standards
- c) advised the Cabinet that should the Air Quality Action Plan be approved this Committee supports officers proactively seeking external funding as soon as possible.

5.1.7 Report title: Tesco Store: Chatham

Outcome:

The Committee:

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) noted that the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture would provide further information in respect of discussions with the new tenant on the issue of improvements to the site including the car park area as requested during the meeting.

5.1.8 Report title: Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee:

- (a) agreed that the report on average journey times across Medway be removed from the list of outstanding reports on the basis that this information was regularly reported under performance indicator NI 167 (average journey time along 5 routes in Medway) as part of the quarterly performance monitoring;
- (b) agreed that the review report on the shared use bay installation in York Avenue, Gillingham would be reported to the Committee in June 2016 to enable a full six month assessment of the operation of the bays;
- (c) agreed to circulate as a briefing note the outstanding report on how roads had been adopted in Medway in the past;

- (d) agreed to the outstanding report on the outcome of discussions between Arriva and petitioners concerning bus services in Walderslade being removed from the list of outstanding reports and for Arriva to be invited to attend a meeting of this Committee in June 2016 to enable the Committee to undertake further discussions with Arriva on bus services in Medway;
- (e) noted that the report from the Housing Task Group would now be submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 29 March 2016;
- (f) noted the programme of Task Group topics for 2016 as set out at paragraph 5 of the report; and
- (g) agreed to add the following items to the Committee's work programme:
 - A report on the possible introduction of 20s plenty scheme introducing 20mph speed restrictions in residential side streets
 - Highway performance data to be included in the report on Road Maintenance Budgets when that report comes to Committee.

Background papers

None

Contact for further details:

Julie Keith

Head of Democratic Services

Telephone: 01634 332760

Email: julie.keith@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

None