

COUNCIL

21 JULY 2016

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 28 April 2016.

1. Budget and Policy 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 **14 April 2016**

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=3264&Ver=4>

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

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the report and;
- b) note the commitment from the Leader to look into the issue about the ownership of sure start centre properties.

2.1.2 Report title Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) thank the Portfolio Holder for Resources for his attendance, and
- b) ask for a report back to the Committee on the outcome of investigations into the funding opportunities for extending the use of solar panels on Council buildings.

2.1.3 Report title Member's Item – Medway Norse

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the report, and
- b) note the offer for further discussions to take place on the future of the café at the Adult Education Centre in Rochester.

2.1.4 Report title 6 Monthly Review of the Council's Corporate Business Risk Register

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the Extended Management Team's recommendations on amendments to the Council's Risk Register as detailed in section 3 of the report and Appendices A and B, and
- b) recommend the revised Risk Register for final approval by Cabinet on 10 May 2016.

Cabinet Decision

78/2016 The Cabinet approved the amendments to the Council's Risk Register, as detailed in Appendix A and B to this report.

2.1.5 **Report title** **Housing (Demand, Supply and Affordability) Task Group**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the comments from the Regeneration, Community and Culture O&S Committee on the report from the Task Group;
- b) approve the report from the Task Group and refer it for consideration to Cabinet on 10 May and also, in respect of recommendations 3 and 9, the Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation;
- c) refer the report to the Health and Well Being Board and ask that it be circulated to all Councillors following the Cabinet meeting on 10 May;
- d) ask that the report be formally considered as part of the process for developing the new Local Plan;
- e) re-order the recommendations in the Task Group's report as follows:
 - o Move recommendation no 13 to be the first recommendation
 - o Move recommendation no 8 to no 4.

Cabinet Decision

- 66/2016 Recognising that the Council, as a regeneration authority, will wish to continue to use its best endeavours to meet its objectively assessed housing needs, the Cabinet agreed to make representations to the Government that the Council should not be penalised as a result of developers failing to deliver housing, particularly where planning permission has been granted.

- 67/2016 Given the importance of building enough homes to meet the increasing need for housing, the Cabinet agreed to lobby the Government to introduce measures to encourage developers and land owners to develop sites for housing which have the benefit of planning permission or are allocated for housing development, within the relevant timeframe, in the Development Plan or Neighbourhood Plan.

- 68/2016 In relation to sites identified in recommendation 2 above, Cabinet agreed to ask the Government to consider introducing a national scheme for a local tax on undeveloped (land banked) land in order to:
- incentivise developers and/or landowners not to sit on sites they have acquired and have either planning permission or are allocated for housing development, within the relevant timeframe, in the Development Plan or Neighbourhood Plan, and;
 - to build out more quickly where planning permission has been given.
- 69/2016 The Cabinet agreed with its partners to explore the use of more innovative construction methods and forms of housing in order to increase the supply of homes.
- The Cabinet noted that the Director of Director of Regeneration Culture, Environment and Transformation is asked to agree the developers be offered at the pre-application stage, as a matter of course, the opportunity to commission services needed before development on sites can commence, for instance archaeology, ecology and contamination studies in order to allow schemes to start on site without further delay.
- 70/2016 The Cabinet agreed to work with partners to identify suitable funding sources and opportunities in order to develop additional homes, including securing external funding to help meet the costs involved in getting sites ready for development.
- 71/2016 The Cabinet agreed to ask Council officers to identify opportunities to improve working relationships with developers (including sub contractors) in order to improve the supply of skilled labour to the industry and, further, to identify achievable targets to help alleviate the shortages in the industry, including working with local education, skills and training providers, such as the Medway University Technical College and Mid Kent College.

- 72/2016 The Cabinet agreed to review the scope to extend the use of home bonds to help tenants find alternative accommodation and work with the private rented sector to encourage landlords to let properties to residents in housing need and to those in receipt of Housing Benefit.
- 73/2016 In order to free up much needed social housing, the Cabinet agreed to review, in relation to its housing stock, the incentives that are available to residents aimed at encouraging them to move into more suitable forms of affordable housing.
- The Cabinet noted that the Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation is asked to continue to promote shared ownership products and similar available products that will support home ownership in Medway.
- 74/2016 Given that 50% of supply is now concentrated in the eight largest private housebuilders, The Cabinet agreed, with the aim of helping increase the supply and type of housing available, to:
- a) identify and assist with overcoming the barriers for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) builders entering the market in Medway and
 - b) consider what the Council can do to encourage SME builders to enter and remain in the market in Medway.
- 75/2016 The Cabinet agreed to ensure that there are appropriate resources in place to ensure that tenants in the private rented sector have sufficient protection with regard to minimum standards of accommodation, repair and good management.
- 76/2016 Subject to this being financially viable, the Cabinet agreed to consider the potential of options to generate extra finance, for example prudentially borrowing and use the funds to build and operate housing across all tenures either by working in partnership with a local housing provider or by alternative means.

2.1.6 **Report title** **Review of the Council's Constitution - Proposed revisions to the Overview and Scrutiny Rules**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the proposed revisions to Article 6 and the Chapter on Overview and Scrutiny Rules attached at Appendix A and forward these to full Council on 28 April for approval with other revisions to the Constitution.
- b) note that proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of the Joint Kent and Medway Health Overview and Scrutiny will be subject to approval by Kent County Council (KCC) as well and that Full Council will be asked to authorise the Monitoring Officer to finalise the wording in consultation with KCC and the Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons of the Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Full Council Decision

- (a) The Council agreed that Rule 16.2 of the Council Rules be suspended, to enable the proposed minor revisions to the Council Rules to be agreed at this meeting of the Council.
- (b) The Council approved the proposed revisions to the Constitution as set out as tracked changes in Appendix B to the report.

2.1.7 **Report title** **Council Plan Quarter 3 2015/16 Performance Monitoring Report**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the Q3 2015/16 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2015/16, and;
- b) endorse the recommendation from the Regeneration, Community and Culture O&S Committee that Cabinet should reconsider Target NI 154 (Net Additional Homes Provided) for 2017/18.

2.1.8 Report title Capital Budget Monitoring 2015/16 - Quarter 3

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the decisions of Cabinet to approve the budget virement proposal in paragraph 4.1.1 of the report and note the three new additions to the programme in paragraphs 4.1.2, 4.1.3 and 4.1.4, which are covered under the Chief Finance Officer's delegated authority on capital spending, and;
- b) note the forecast outturn position and new additions to the programme following round 3 of the quarterly capital monitoring report for 2015/16.

2.1.9 Report title Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the forecast outturn position and proposed management actions following round 3 of the revenue budget monitoring for 2015/16.

2.1.10 Report title Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the work programme (set out in appendix 1 to the report) and also 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 26 May 2016

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=3392&T=10>

**3.1.1 Report title Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)
Update Report**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report.

3.1.2 **Report title** **Update on Integrated Family Support (and Early Help)**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report.

3.1.3 **Report title** **Short Breaks Provision for Children with Disabilities and the Local Offer**

Outcome:

- 1) The Committee recommended the Cabinet to approve officers to commence consultation on the proposals as outlined in the report, for a period from June to September 2016.
- 2) The Committee recommended that the report back to the Committee on the outcome of consultation include details on the local offer.

Cabinet Decision

84/2016 The Cabinet agreed that officers commence consultation (running from June – September 2016) on the proposals for short breaks provision, as outlined in section 3 of the report.

3.1.4 **Report title** **16-19 Strategy 2016-2020**

Outcome:

The Committee recommended the Cabinet to approve the 16-19 Strategy for the period 2016–2020.

Cabinet Decision

82/2016 The Cabinet approved the 16-19 Strategy for the period 2016-20.

3.1.5. **Report title:** **Sufficiency Report 2016-17**

Outcome:

The Committee recommended the Cabinet to approve the Sufficiency Report 2016-17.

Cabinet Decision

83/2016 The Cabinet approved the Medway Sufficiency Report as set out at Appendix A to the report.

3.1.6. Report title: Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee: -

- 1) Agreed the work programme, as attached to Appendix 1 of their report, subject to the additions to it made earlier in the meeting (Aut Even and report back on short breaks consultation);
- 2) Recommended the appointment of Tina Lovey to the non-voting position of Headteacher on this Committee to the Chief Executive to approve, following consultation with the Group Whips, for a two year term;
- 3) Agreed that no commentary be submitted from the Committee on the Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust's Quality Report 2015/16
- 4) Agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Legal Officer in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and spokespersons of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Director of Children and Adults, to comment, if appropriate, on quality accounts submitted by provider trusts in future years.

4. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.1. 16 June 2016

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=437&MId=3530>

4.1.1. Report title: York Avenue, Gillingham six month review following implementation of parking changes

Outcome:

The Committee supported the retention of the existing parking arrangements in York Avenue, Gillingham but requested that the position continued to be monitored and a further review be undertaken in six months.

4.1.2. Report title: Update on Arriva Services in Medway

Outcome:

The Committee thanked the representatives from Arriva for attending the meeting and giving a presentation updating the Committee on Arriva bus services in Medway and agreed that:

- a) the Development Manager be advised that Arriva are willing to be included in consultations on the Medway Local Plan;
- b) it be noted that Arriva will respond direct to the Councillor concerned on the issue of the last 177 bus service on Sundays; and
- c) it be noted that Arriva will supply a contact number to the Democratic Services Officer for circulation to all elected Members.

4.1.3. Report title: Council Plan End of Year Quarter 4 2015/16 Performance Monitoring Report

Outcome:

The Committee agreed:

- a) that the end of year Quarter 4 2015/16 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2015/16 be noted;
- b) it be noted that the Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation will discuss with Communications the promotion of the issue of domestic violence incidents during football tournaments via social media.
- c) a briefing note be circulated to all Members of the Council on the following issues:
 - Flytipping on a Ward by Ward basis
 - Information on the Review of Controlled Parking Zones across Medway and how Members can get involved.

4.1.4. Report title: Petitions

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report.

4.1.5. **Report title: Work programme**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

a) note the current work programme

b) add the following item to the work programme for 18 August 2016:

A presentation from the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority on consultations concerning the closure of an area of the estuary to all fishing activities so as to protect juvenile fish that are reliant on habitats.

c) note the following programme of Portfolio Holder attendance:

- 18 August 2016 – Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services – Councillor Filmer
- October 2016 – Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation – Councillor Chitty
- 8 December 2016 – Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services – Councillor Mackness
- 17 January 2017 – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services – Councillor Doe and Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships – Councillor Rodney Chambers OBE
- 28 March 2017 – Portfolio Holder for Business Management – Councillor Turpin.

5. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5.1. 21 June 2016

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=3398>

5.1.1. **Report title: Update on Medway NHS Foundation Trust**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the progress report from the Trust.

5.1.2. **Report title: Proposed Development of the Health Service or Variation in Provision of Health Service - Relocation of Stroke Beds from St Bartholomew's Hospital**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed:

- a) that the proposed development or variation to the health service as set out in the report and Appendix A is not substantial;
- b) that a letter be sent to the CCG formally requiring that this Committee is informed, and regularly updated, on the CCG five year strategy and 2016/17 commissioning intentions (and annually the commissioning intentions) so that the Committee can plan the areas Members would like to scrutinise in more detail and liaise with the CCG about any forthcoming proposals for substantial variations or changes to the Health Service, so that there is a proper timeline for consultation with the Committee.
- c) to also advise the CCG that the above in no way detracts from the CCG's responsibility to inform Members of areas of change regarding substantial variations or Regulation 23.

5.1.3. **Report title: Acute Mental Health Inpatient Bed Review Update**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and asked for a further progress report at the next meeting.

5.1.4. **Report title: Council Plan End of Year Quarter 4 2015/16 Performance Monitoring Report**

Outcome: The Committee:

- a) noted the Q4 2015/16 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2015/16, and:
- b) asked for a briefing note on Target PH11 (Number of users of opiates that left drug treatment successfully)

5.1.5. **Report title: "Getting Better Together" Medway Adult Social Care Strategy**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to recommend the Strategy to Cabinet for approval with the proviso that the readability of the document should be improved for other audiences.

Cabinet Decision

This matter will be considered by the Cabinet on 12 July 2016 which will also consider the comments of the Health and Wellbeing Board which met on 28 June 2016 and recommended that the Cabinet approve the strategy.

5.1.6. **Report title: Work Programme**

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the current the work programme attached at Appendix 1 to the report;
- b) agree the following additions to the Committee's work programme:
 - waiting times for GP appointments and the future of the GP practice at Canterbury Street to be added to the work programme for August 2016
 - a progress report on Home First be submitted to the October meeting (to include the position on home nursing capacity)
 - an update on staffing at NHS 111, together with details of training undertaken, be submitted to the October meeting.
 - The Portfolio Holder for Adult Services be held to account at the January 2017 meeting of the Committee, to align with scrutiny of the Medway Safeguarding Children's Board
- c) Note that a Member visit to NHS 111 at Ashford will take place and agreed that an all Member briefing on dentistry take place in October 2016.

6. Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6.1 7 July 2016

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=3521>

6.1.1 **Report title: Call In - Various Land Disposals**

6.1.2 **Report title: Update on Medway Norse**

6.1.3 **Report title: Procurement Strategy 2016-2021**

6.1.4 **Report title: Council Plan End of Year Q4 2016/16 Performance Monitoring Report**

6.1.5 **Report title: Petitions**

6.1.6 **Report title: Work Programme**

6.2 The above reports were considered by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7 July 2016 but it has not been possible in the time available to finalise and publish the minutes of this meeting in time for this agenda.

Contact for further details:

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Background papers

None

Appendices

None