

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 JUNE 2017

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, Part 5 of the Constitution – Overview and Scrutiny Rules, paragraph 21.1 (xv) 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 1 June 2017.

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 Arising from the pre-agenda meeting it is suggested that:

- The report on information on the levels of finance needed to be invested in the highways network in order to maintain current levels of performance be rescheduled to March 2018 on the basis that the new contract is due to go live in August.
- The report on the pilot scheme for Street Licensing – Placing objects on the highway be rescheduled to January 2018 to enable an extension of the pilot scheme.
- The report providing a 6 month update on the recommendations from the Dementia Task Group be scheduled for January 2018.
- The update from the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority be provided by a briefing note rather than a report to Committee.
- The report on the associated benefits and the costs involved in the possible provision of a mini roundabout at the junction of Palmerston Road with Magpie Hall Road be provisionally scheduled for August 2017.
- A report on the outcome of consultation on the Declaration of Four Elms Hill Air Quality Management Plan be submitted to the Committee in August 2017 subject to the consultation process having ended.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 8 May 2017. Set out below is a list of items featuring on the Forward Plan that fall within the terms of reference of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment 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.

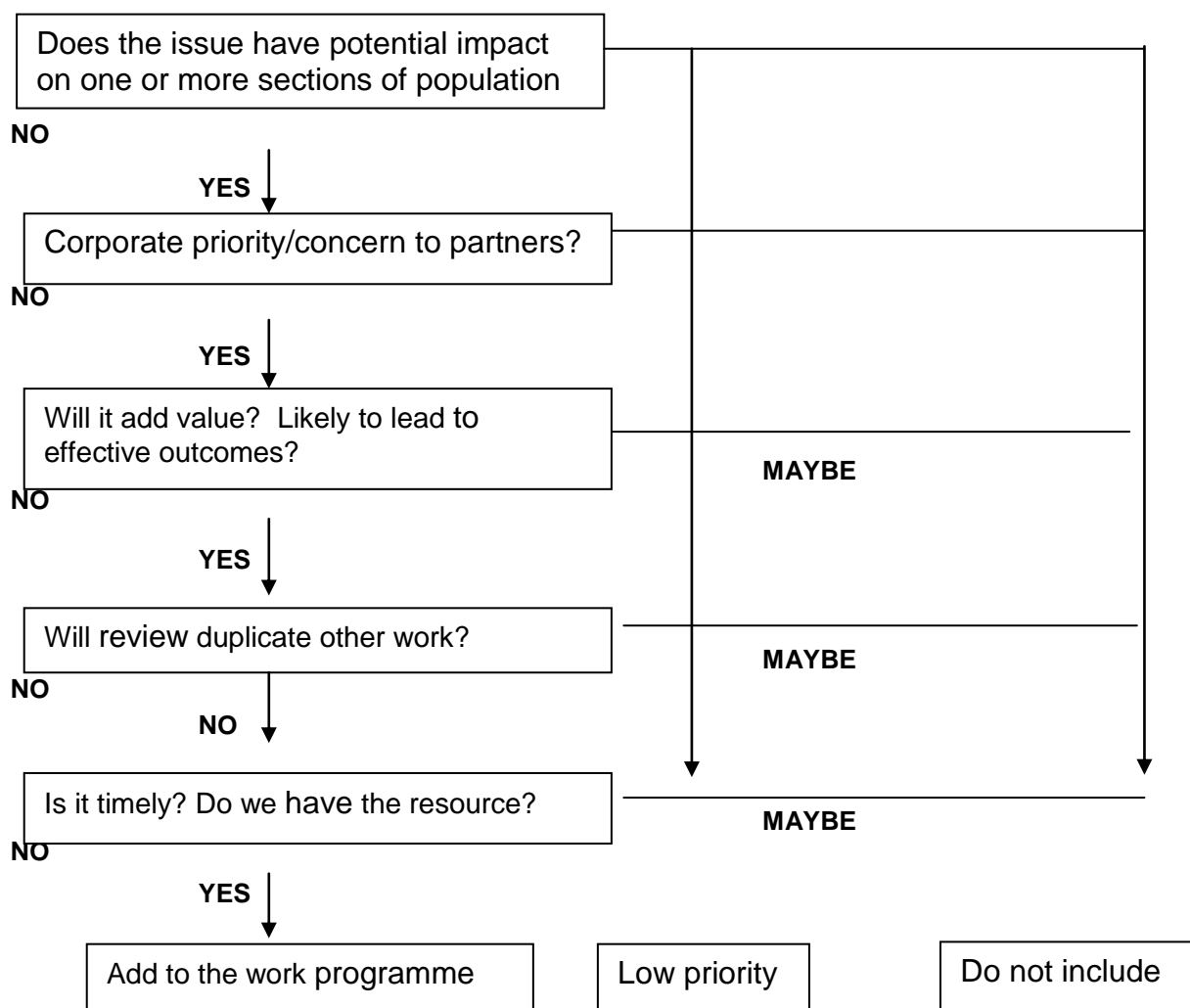
<u>Title of Decision:</u>	<u>Anticipated Decision Date:</u>
Planning Enforcement Policy	11 July 2017 (now scheduled for 26 September)
Declaration of Four Elms Hill Air Quality Management Area – <i>Subject to agreement at this meeting this is will be placed on the Committee’s work programme for 17 August 2017</i>	5 September 2017
Council Plan Quarter 1 2017/18 Performance Monitoring Report – <i>This is on this Committee’s work programme for 19 October 2017</i>	26 September 2017

5. Selection of topics for next round of Scrutiny Task Groups

5.1 Since 2011 Medway Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees have operated a systematic and criteria based approach to the selection of topics for Scrutiny Task Groups.

This reflects national best practice and is summarised below:

Questions to ask when prioritising topics for review



5.2 As agreed by Full Council, up to three Scrutiny Task Groups can be supported in each twelve month period. The selection of topics for the current round of in-depth scrutiny reviews was agreed by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2015 as follows:

Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Housing in Medway – demand, supply and affordability – carried forward from previous round of reviews
Health and Adult Social Care	How far has Medway gone in developing

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	a Dementia Friendly Community
Children and Young People and Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committees	Employment Opportunities for 18 to 21 year olds (including apprenticeships)

5.3 The Task Group on Employment Opportunities for 18 to 21 year olds will start in June and report its findings and recommendations to Cabinet in December 2017. It is proposed to now commence the established process for the selection of further topics for the next round of Scrutiny Task Groups in 2018/19. The timetable for this would be as follows:

- (i) **May – early July:** Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be notified of the proposed timetable and process for the determination of the next round of in-depth reviews and Members invited to submit suggestions for topics taking into account the criteria adopted for the selection of reviews (as set out above);
- (ii) **July- August :** Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Opposition Spokespersons use their pre-agenda meetings with officers to propose topics to be put forward and then each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider and agree topics to be put forward for prioritisation by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee exercising its co-ordinating role.
- (iii) **Late October:** All Overview and Scrutiny Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Opposition Spokespersons meet informally to prioritise three of the topics put forward by Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- (iv) **30 November:** The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and agrees a programme of three in-depth reviews for the period January 2018 to February 2019 (recognising that one review may be delayed if it would not be possible for it to conclude and report its findings to the Cabinet before the local elections in 2019)

6. Financial and legal implications

6.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 a) The Committee is asked to note the current work programme and identify any additional items for inclusion in the work programme.
- b) The Committee is asked to agree the changes to the work programme as set out in paragraph 3.3 above.

- c) The Committee is asked to note the process for selection of topics for the next round of Scrutiny Task Groups in 2018/19 and invite all Members of the Committee to submit ideas based on the criteria set out in paragraph 5 above to the Democratic Services Officer ahead of the next agenda planning meeting for this Committee.

Appendices

Appendix A – Work programme

Lead officer contact

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Background papers

None.