

COUNCIL

10 OCTOBER 2019

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 18 July 2019.

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 web links under each section.

2.	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
2.1	<u>25 July</u> https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=4395&Ver=4	
2.1.1	Report title:	Proposed Amalgamation of Stoke Primary and Allhallows Primary Academies Outcome: The Committee noted the report and the decision by Lord Agnew, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to refuse the proposed merger of Stoke and Allhallows Primary Academies and requested that more feedback be sought in relation to the decision.
2.1.2	Report title:	Council Response to LGO Complaint re Mainstream Home to School Transport Decision and Policy Outcome: The Committee noted the report.

2.1.3	Report title:	<p>Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 4 and End of Year 2018/19</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the report.</p>
2.1.4	Report title:	<p>Educational Attainment of Medway Looked After Children</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the report.</p>
2.1.5	Report title:	<p>Draft Medway Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2024</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>Members agreed to forward their comments to the Cabinet for consideration.</p>
2.1.6	Report title:	<p>Work programme</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The work programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, including the proposed additions which were outlined in italic text at Appendix 1; 2) To receive an Inspections Update report at its meeting in either October or December 2019; 3) That a demonstration of the Mind of My Own app be provided to Committee Members immediately before the 3 December 2019 meeting.

3.	Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
3.1	<u>15 August</u> https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=437&MId=4421&Ver=4	
3.1.1	Report title:	<p>Member's item: Use of Herbicides</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee thanked Councillor Curry for his Member's item and Mrs Noxon for attending the meeting and agreed that:</p> <p>a) it be recommended that an alternative to spraying in parks, play area fence lines and other features and tree bases not be taken forward at this time.</p> <p>b) it be recommended that support be given to the mini meadows project and other similar ideas proposed for the highway verges and in parks, where the Council will be working with Plant Life and Kent Wildlife Trust to continue to increase and enhance biodiversity of plants and wildlife around Medway.</p> <p>c) a further report be submitted to this Committee in December 2019 setting out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the experiences of other local authorities that have ceased using herbicides for weed control; • documentary evidence as to the potential harm of continued use of herbicides for weed control; • details of any policy changes which may be required should the Council decide to cease using herbicides to control weed growth; • full information on the financial and legal implications of any decision by the Council to cease use of herbicides for weed control to enable the Committee to make an informed recommendation to Cabinet for consideration before the spraying season commences in March/April 2020.
3.1.2	Report title:	<p>Member's Item: Strood Development Works Update</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee:</p> <p>a) noted the responses to the items raised in the Member's item.</p> <p>b) noted that officers will set up a meeting to discuss issues with appropriate Members, including Ward</p>

		<p>Councillors, residents and both Housing Associations in order to fully understand residents' concerns and to take appropriate action and/or provide assurances concerning the impact of the Strood development works on the health and lives of residents in Kingswear Gardens and Canal Road and if appropriate to take forward any lessons learnt to other future development works.</p>
3.1.3	Report title:	<p>Attendance by the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for attending the meeting and answering questions and noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a gully cleansing schedule will be circulated to all Members of the Committee. b) in the light of the delayed announcement of the rail franchise in the South East, the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services and officers will make representations to the Secretary of State for Transport concerning the rolling stock and the capacity of rail services from Medway to London.
3.1.4	Report title:	<p>Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 4 and End of Year 2018/19</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the Quarter 4 and end of year performance of measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities and noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Director for Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive will consider the potential of marking the life of William Cuffay in 2020. b) A briefing note will be circulated on the removal of a number of trees in Chatham Town Centre and information on the proposed tree planting programme.
3.1.5	Report title:	<p>Petitions</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the petition responses and appropriate officer action set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report.</p>

3.1.6	Report title:	Work Programme Outcome: The Committee: a) noted the current work programme; b) agreed the suggestions of the pre-agenda meeting set out at paragraph 3.3 in the report as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Four Elms Hill AQMA report be rescheduled for 26 March 2020.• The Annual Review of Waste Contracts report be re-scheduled from 26 March 2020 to the first meeting (June 2020) post Annual Council which will allow the report to give a fuller account of Norse's take-over of the contract. In the interim, the Assistant Director Front Line Services will produce a briefing note in March 2020 providing Members with some initial information on the new contract.• The CCTV Improvement Programme item be a briefing note rather than a report. c) requested that the following additional items be included on the work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An annual review of Volker's Highways Contract – date to be determined• A report on the review of the Castle Concerts – December 2019• A report back on the Use of Herbicides – December 2019 d) noted that the next Task Group will be on Physical Activity and that this Committee had been invited to put forward two Members to serve on the Task Group (one x Conservative and one x Labour and Co-Operative) with nominations to be processed through Group Whips in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson of this Committee.
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4.	Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
4.1	<u>20 August</u> https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&Mid=4522&Ver=4	
4.1.1	Report title:	<p>Development of Single Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Noted and commented on the update provided. ii) Requested that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Details of CCG and STP meetings be provided to the Committee, to enable Members to attend those meetings open to the public. b) Details of current Council representation at STP meetings be provided to the Committee.
4.1.2	Report title:	<p>Update on Kent and Medway Stroke Services Review</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Considered and commented on the report, including the possible impact of the consolidation of stroke services on Medway residents. ii) Requested that the Committee be kept updated, via Medway Foundation Trust's regular update reports, on the staffing of the stroke unit at Medway Maritime Hospital.
4.1.3	Report title:	<p>Single Pathology Service for Kent and Medway</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted and comment on the progress of the Kent and Medway Pathology Programme.</p>
4.1.4	Report title:	<p>Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) Update</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted and commented on the report and requested that diagrams presented to the Committee as part of future reports also be provided as PowerPoint slides.</p>

4.1.5	Report title:	<p>Adult Community Health Services: Changes to Phlebotomy Services Provision</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the planned changes to the phlebotomy service provision.</p>
4.1.6	Report title:	<p>Outline of Proposed Changes to the way Acute Adult Mental Health Services are Delivered Across Kent and Medway, with Particular Potential Impact on The St Martins Hospital Site, Canterbury</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Considered the proposed service change and determined that it constitutes a substantial development of or variation in the provision of health services in the local authority's area. ii) Agreed that the proposals do warrant formal public consultation. iii) Noted that as the Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had also deemed the proposals to constitute a substantial development or variation, the proposals would need to be considered by the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4.1.7	Report title:	<p>Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) Update</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the contents of the report and provided comments and requested that a report on partnership working between the Council and health partners be added to the Committee Work Programme.</p>
4.1.8	Report title:	<p>Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 4 and end of Year 2018/19</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee considered the quarter 4 and end of year 2018/19 performance of the measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.</p>

4.1.9	Report title:	<p>Work Programme</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Considered and agreed the Work Programme, including the changes set out in the report. ii) Agreed to request that information on the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework how it aligns with the Kent and Medway transformation programme is requested as part of a proposed Member Briefing on the NHS local Five Year Plan.
5.	Business Support Overview And Scrutiny Committee	
5.1	<p><u>22 August</u></p> <p>https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=4389&Ver=4</p>	
5.1.1	Report title:	<p>Voluntary and Community Sector</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed, subject to officers identifying appropriate officer support, to set up a cross party working party to develop proposals relating to the voluntary and community sector in Medway with a view to reporting to the Committee, possibly in January 2020.</p>
5.1.2	Report title:	<p>Medway Commercial Group - Six Monthly Report</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the report, and; b) request a briefing note on the membership of other Local Authority Trading Companies, in particular the extent to which elected members were appointed to the Board and how common it was for a member to chair the Board.
5.1.3	Report title:	<p>Medway Council Strategy</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the draft Council Strategy and forward the Committee's comments, as set out above, to Cabinet, prior to approval at Full Council; and

		<p>b) note that Cabinet will be asked to recommend to Council that the Council Strategy be added as a Policy Framework document and that paragraph 4.1 of Article 4 (The Full Council) in Chapter 2 of the Constitution be amended accordingly.</p>
5.1.4	Report title:	<p>Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2019/20</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to:</p> <p>a) note the results of the first round of capital budget monitoring for 2019/20;</p> <p>b) note that Cabinet has recommended to Full Council that the S106 and revenue contribution identified to fund the overspend on the Family Hubs and Wellbeing Centre scheme is added to the capital programme, as set out at paragraph 3.3 of the report,</p> <p>c) note that Cabinet has recommended to Full Council that the capital programme is reduced by £1.339 million, as outlined at paragraph 3.10 of the report, and;</p> <p>d) request a briefing note on progress in completing the mercury abatement works to the Medway Crematorium.</p>
5.1.5	Report title:	<p>Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2019/20</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to note:</p> <p>a) the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2019/20;</p> <p>b) the proposed variation and addition to the charges for Private Sector Housing enforcement set out at paragraph 5.3.7 of the report, and;</p> <p>c) that the Cabinet has approved the write-off of the three irrecoverable sums against the corporate bad debt provision of £145,729.98; £115,223.47 and £106,932.13, as detailed in sections 4.2.7, 5.3.6 and 5.3.9 of the report.</p>

5.1.6	Report title:	Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report - Quarter 4 End of Year Outcome: The Committee agreed to note quarter 4 end of year 2018/19 performance of the measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.
5.1.7	Report title:	Draft Allocations Policy 2019 Outcome: The Committee agreed to note the proposed Allocations Policy.
5.1.8	Report title:	Work Programme Outcome: The Committee: a) agreed the proposed changes to the current work programme (Appendix 1 to the report) as set out in paragraph 3.2, and; b) noted the work programmes of the other overview and scrutiny committees (set out in Appendix 2).
6.	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
6.1	<u>3 October</u> https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MIId=4396&Ver=4	
6.1.1	Report title:	Ofsted's Inspection of Medway's Children's Services
6.1.2	Report title:	Joint Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy
6.1.3	Report title:	Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Risk Register Review Quarter 1 2019/20
6.1.4	Report title:	Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019
6.1.5	Report title:	Outcome of Statutory Consultation for the Proposed Prescribed Alterations at St Nicholas CE VC Infant School
6.1.6	Report title:	Annual Review of the School Place Planning Strategy 2018-22

6.1.7	Report title:	Work Programme
<p>The above reports were due to be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 3 October 2019 and are listed here to enable the Council to discuss any issues arising at this meeting as the minutes are not yet available.</p>		

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Appendices

None.

Background papers

None.