

COUNCIL

23 APRIL 2020

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 23 January 2020.

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.	Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
2.1	<u>30 January 2020</u> https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&Mid=4393&Ver=4	
2.1.1	Report title:	Attendance of the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services Outcome: The Committee agreed to: a) thank the Deputy Leader for his attendance; b) invite the Deputy Leader to attend when the Committee considered the report on the outcome of concerns at Medway Commercial Group, and; c) add to its work programme consideration of the Adult Education Business Plan.

2.1.2	Report title:	<p>Medway Norse Update</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to note the report and request a briefing on the accident at Rochester Castle involving an employee of Medway Norse.</p>
2.1.3	Report title:	<p>Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets 2020/21</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to recommend the following to Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a proposed rent increase of CPI plus 1% for the housing stock, as set out in Appendix A to the report, (based on 52 collection weeks) with effect from 6 April 2020; b) the baseline garage rent for Council tenants be increased by 30 pence per week to bring in line with non council tenants garage rent with effect from 6 April 2020; c) that a rent increase of 5% to be applied to all garage tenure types with effect from 6 April 2020; d) that the service charges increases/decreases, as set out in Appendix B of the report for 2020/21, be approved; e) that the revenue budget for the HRA Service for 2020/21, as per Appendix C to the report, be approved; f) that the proposed capital budget of £0.3m be approved for buying ex council or/and acquiring properties from the open market to be funded from the HRA revenue reserves and 1-4-1 capital receipts, as set out in section 8.6 of the report; g) that the provision for the repayment of debt based on annuity based payment on the HRA's outstanding debt to be £0.340m for 2020/21 be approved, and; h) that the revised 30 year HRA Business Plan model, as attached at Appendix D to the report, be approved.

2.1.4	Report title:	<p>Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2020/2021</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to note that Cabinet has instructed officers to continue to work with Portfolio Holders in formulating robust proposals to balance the budget for 2020/21 and beyond.</p>
2.1.5	Report title:	<p>Draft Capital and Revenue Budget Proposals 2020/2021 (Report back from other O&S Committees)</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) refer the comments from the individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as set out in Section 3 of the report, together with those pertinent to this Committee as considered earlier in this agenda to Cabinet on 4 February, and; b) request a briefing note on the funding of SEN children placed in Medway by other local authorities, including wider issues such as housing, responsibilities more generally for SEN looked after children and how effective communications were between Medway and the other councils involved.
2.1.6	Report title:	<p>Council Plan Refresh 2020/21</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the proposed changes to programmes and measures of success as listed in Appendix 1 to the report, b) recommend that, following the proposed removal from the Council Plan of Measure N101 (the percentage of looked after children who achieve the required standard in GCSE English and maths) that performance be monitored by the Corporate Parenting Board. c) note that those Council Plan measures still awaiting a proposed target, namely a proposed new qualitative measure on the calibre of social work and NI154 (net homes provided) will be further considered by the Corporate Management Team and that Full Council will be asked to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, to agree the final measures.

2.1.7	Report title:	<p>Work programme</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the Committee’s work programme and also the work programmes of the other overview and scrutiny committees; b) ask for a report at the April meeting on the Local Welfare Provision Scheme, and; c) request a Briefing Paper on the Council Tax Discretionary Relief Scheme, including who the scheme was aimed at, criteria for selection and take up figures.
2.1.8	Report title:	<p>Medway Commercial Group - Six Monthly Progress Report and Business Plan Adoption</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the six monthly performance report for MCG and its Business Plan for the next three financial years, and; b) recommend to Cabinet that the timing of when to re-brand MCG should be carefully considered.
3.	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
3.1	<p><u>5 March 2020</u></p> <p>https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MIId=4399&Ver=4</p>	
3.1.1	Report title:	<p>Annual Report on School Performance 2018-19</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the report and thanked the Regional Schools Commissioner for her attendance.</p>
3.1.2	Report title:	<p>Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Education and Schools</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for his attendance.</p>

3.1.3	Report title:	<p>Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services was thanked for his attendance.</p>
3.1.4	Report title:	<p>Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member)</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services for her attendance.</p>
3.1.5	Report title:	<p>Update on progress made in relation to ILACS</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the report and requested future reports to reflect the impact of actions being undertaken to improve children's services.</p>
3.1.6	Report title:	<p>Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Risk Register Quarter 3 2019/20</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the report and requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Child hood obesity be added to the Committee's work programme. ii) A briefing note in relation to the work being done to mitigate the impact of a reduction of providers of training courses.
3.1.7	Report title:	<p>Medway Youth Justice Partnership Strategic Plan for 2020-2023</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.</p>
3.1.8	Report title:	<p>Joint Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection Revisit</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the report.</p>

3.1.9	Report title:	<p>Work programme</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) agreed the work programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to accepting the proposed changes, outlined in italic text on Appendix 1. ii) supported the new ways of working outlined in Section 5 of the report with a view to strengthening scrutiny impact particularly in performance monitoring. iii) recommended the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree that the next Scrutiny Task Group should have focus on Children’s Social Care and that there should be an option of one Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2020/21 being a themed meeting also with a focus on children’s social care. iv) subject to the agreement of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this Committee agreed that a Task Group comprising three Conservative (Councillors Kemp, Thorne and Elizabeth Turpin) and 2 Labour and Co-operative Group members (Councillors Cooper and Johnson) should be set up to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review. v) subject to the agreement of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this Committee agreed that the Task Group should focus on Early Help and that the Head of Democratic Services should be authorised to develop the detailed scope of the review in consultation with the Task Group members once the findings of the diagnostic exercise undertaken by Essex County Council are available, as set out in section 6.7.
4.	Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
4.1	<p><u>12 March 2020</u></p> <p>https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&Mid=4406&Ver=4</p>	
4.1.1	Report title:	<p>Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for Adults’ Services for his attendance.

		<p>b) The Committee requested that future reports include more information and analysis in the interests of transparency.</p>
4.1.2	Report title:	<p>South East Coast Ambulance Service Update</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>a) The Committee noted and commented on the update report provided.</p> <p>b) The Committee requested that the following information be included in the next SECAMB update report to Committee: Joint Live Conveyancing Review and further information relating to bullying and harassment.</p> <p>c) The Committee requested a briefing note on the £50,000 which had been spent on improving the roads infrastructure adjacent to Medway Maritime Hospital.</p>
4.1.3	Report title:	<p>Proposed Development of the Health Service or Variation of the Health Service - Frank Lloyd Centre, Sittingbourne</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>a) The Committee considered and commented on the report and proposed development or variation to the health service, as set out in the report and appendices 1 and 2 to the report.</p> <p>b) The Committee, in consideration of the CCG assessment that the proposal does represent a substantial development of, or variation to, the health service, agreed that it considered the proposals to amount to a substantial development of or variation to the health service in Medway.</p> <p>c) The Committee, having agreed that it considered the proposals to amount to a substantial development of or variation to the health service in Medway, noted that the matter will need to be considered by the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
4.1.4	Report title:	<p>All Age Eating Disorder Service Update</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted and commented on the update provided and that a further update be provided to the Committee in approximately 6 months' time.</p>

4.1.5	Report title:	<p>Social Isolation Task Group: The Impact of Social Isolation In Medway - Progress Report</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Committee noted the progress made against the Task Group recommendations and thanked those Members who sat on the Task Group. b) The Committee referred the report to the Health and Wellbeing Board for consideration.
4.1.6	Report title:	<p>Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Risk Register Quarter 3 2019/20</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Committee noted the Q3 2019/20 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities, and to note the amended strategic risk register as set out in Appendix 2.</p>
4.1.7	Report title:	<p>Work programme</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Committee agreed changes to the Work Programme as set out in paragraph 3 of the report. b) The Committee agreed to a report back on South East Coast Ambulance Service and the All Age Eating Disorder Service. c) The Committee agreed to add a report to the Work Programme on the Medway Clinical Commissioning Group comparing past to present data including factors such as GP numbers, numbers of surgeries and the numbers of acute beds. d) The Committee agreed to send a letter of thanks to Stephen Clark, Chair of the Medway Foundation Trust, ahead of his retirement.

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Appendices

None.

Background papers

None.