

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 MARCH 2022

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from/author: Ellen Wright Democratic Services Officer

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 17 February 2022.
 - 3.2 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson were updated on the Committee's current work programme and advised on the reports to be submitted to this meeting.
 - 3.3 As agreed at the meeting of this Committee on 13 August 2020, a list of briefing notes relevant to the work of this Committee which have been circulated in 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021 are attached at Appendices B, C and D.

3.4 *Business Support O&S Committee – 25 January 2022*

3.4.1 There was an informal meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Chairman, Vice Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons on 5 January in relation to reducing the length of Overview and Scrutiny meetings and also Task Groups. The following measures were proposed:

- Fewer agenda reports, with a maximum of four or five being considered at each meeting.
- Reports being taken as read; therefore, officers are not required to give introductions at meetings.
- Reports for Members' information to be circulated on the agenda only for noting without questions or debate

3.4.2 The Business Support O&S Committee:

- agreed that there should be further discussion between Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Opposition Spokespersons on measures for future overview and scrutiny committee meetings;
- noted the Director of Public Health's advice in relation to undertaking a Task Group on GP appointments and access to services at the present time;
- agreed the schedule for the remaining Task Groups as: 1. GP appointments and access to services; 2. physical activity; 3. town centres; and 4. support for carers (as a themed meeting);
- agreed that the Local Plan be considered by each of the overview and scrutiny committees at the appropriate time.

3.4.3 At the agenda planning meeting, there was also a discussion about the suggestion made at the last meeting of Business Support O&S Committee, that a review of Town Centres be conducted as a standing item within scheduled meetings of RCE O&S Committee. Members were advised that Town Centres would form part of the Medway 2037 strategy refresh and the Local Plan. Updates could be provided through the year via Performance Monitoring reports. If anything came out of the Town Centres Board, that could be supplied via a briefing note. Therefore, Members concluded they were content for the Task Group to come forward in the order previously agreed by the Business Support O&S Committee, i.e. position 3.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 7 March 2022. 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>
Low Carbon Heat Network – Project Development Phase Proposal	5 April 2022
Queen Street	5 April 2022
Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Risk Register Review Quarter 4 and end of year 2021/22 – <i>This is scheduled to come to RCE O&S in June</i>	10 May 2022
Innovation Park Medway (IPM) Southern Site Disposal	10 May 2022
Medway 2037– <i>This is on the March RCE O&S agenda</i>	7 June 2022
Gateway 3 Contract Award: Recycling Resource Management Contract	7 June 2022
Medway Climate Change Action Plan Update	7 June 2022

5. Items on the current Work Programme

- 5.1 A draft Air Quality Action Plan has been produced for the Four Elms Hill Air Quality Management Area. A public consultation on the draft document is taking place from 7 March to 4 April 2022. Once comments and feedback have been properly considered and incorporated into the action plan (where necessary), the action plan will be reported to Cabinet and O&S.

6. Member's Item

- 6.1 A Member's item has recently been received from Councillor Osborne asking questions concerning sewage discharges and asking that a representative from the Southern Water Authority be invited to attend the O&S Committee to discuss this issue.
- 6.2 Due to the number of items on this agenda and to give the Southern Water Authority time to gather the information requested, with the agreement of Councillor Osbourne, it is proposed that this item be included on the agenda for June.

7. Financial and legal implications

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

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to;
- a) note the current work programme;

- b) note the progress on the submission of the Four Elms Hill Air Quality Management Area to this Committee as set out at paragraph 5.1 above.
- c) agree that Councillor Osborne's Member's item on sewage discharges be included on the agenda in June.
- d) identify any additional items for inclusion in the work programme.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Work programme

Appendix B – Index of briefing notes 2019

Appendix C – Index of briefing notes 2020

Appendix D – Index of briefing notes 2021

Background papers

None