

## **COUNCIL**

**21 JULY 2022**

### **REPORT ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY**

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive  
Author: Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services

#### Summary

This report provides a summary of the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees since the last report to Council on 21 April 2022.

#### 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 using the web links listed under background papers.

#### 2. Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10 May 2022

##### 2.1. Call-In - Queen Street Development Update

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) Note the two called-in Cabinet decisions within decision no. 58/2022, and;
- b) Call on Cabinet to:
  - i) recognise the requirement to not have any services or projects tendered which are contrary to Council policy.
  - ii) introduce a formalised, improved system of governance and accountability of significant (in terms of budgets over £100,000 or more than 3 years) projects in Medway.
  - iii) ensure all decision making is fully minuted to make sure that all the processes are transparent.

- iv) enable appropriate monitoring of major projects using published milestones and a timeline.

### 3. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 June 2022

#### 3.1. Annual Report on Schools Performance for the Academic Year 2020 to 2021

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

#### 3.2. Missing Children

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

#### 3.3. Medway Safeguarding Children Plan (MSCP) Update Report

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

#### 3.4. Council Plan Performance Monitoring & Risk Register Review Quarter 4 2021/22

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

#### 3.5. Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee agreed the work programme, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

### 4. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 June 2022

#### 4.1. Petitions

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the petition responses and appropriate officer action set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

- b) note the petition referral request set out in paragraph 4 of the report and the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive's response.
- c) request that the data from the Kent Police Speed Watch pilot be sent to Members and that existing data held by the Council be re-visited as part of revising the road safety action plan.

#### 4.2. Member's Item - Sewage Discharges

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) Note the response to the Member's item provided by Southern Water.
- b) Welcome the offer of a site visit to a wastewater treatment works.
- c) Ask Southern Water to provide feedback on the possibility of the Beachbouy website upgrade to provide near real-time information about releases of stormwater or wastewater along the South East coast being piloted in Medway.
- d) Request that Southern Water inform the Council when consultation on the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan would begin.
- e) Request Southern Water to release to the Committee data showing all releases of wastewater into the River Medway between 2017 and 2020, the locations of outflow stations, details of the type of spill and duration as well as information about nutrients and pollutants and the risk of this to aquatic life, and also Southern Water contact points.
- f) Request Southern Water to contact the Council's Head of Planning about the emerging risk to the Medway and Swale estuary due to developments.

#### 4.3. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Risk Register Quarter 4 2021/22

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) Note the Q4 2021/22 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.
- b) Note that details of the St John's Church improvements would be shared.
- c) Request briefing notes on litter surveys, including how regular they were and where they took place and also on the Citizen's Panel.
- d) Note that officers would examine whether inflation could be included in the GVA per job figures.

- e) request that Members' requests for repairs to greenspaces infrastructure be added to the action plan and consideration given how this could be incorporated into the satisfaction figures.

#### 4.4. Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee:

- a) Agreed the Committee's proposed work programme, attached at Appendix A to the report.
- b) Agreed that the timing of the first report in relation to spend of S106 developer contributions be discussed at the next pre-agenda meeting.
- c) Agreed that whether the impact of storms and flooding on the north Kent marshes and also the condition of the piers on the river Medway should be added to the work programme be discussed at the next pre-agenda meeting.
- d) Agreed that a briefing note be provided on the relationship between grass cutting by MHS Homes and the Council before any decision on whether to add this to the work programme was taken.

### 5. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 June 2022

#### 5.1. Children and Young People's Mental Health (Transitions)

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the developments to date.
- b) request a paper on the crisis and complex pathway programme.
- c) note the offer to provide an update to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### 5.2. Transformation of mental health and dementia services in Kent and Medway

Outcome:

The Committee:

- a) agreed to note the progress update in the report.

- b) agreed that regular updates on Kent and Medway's mental health and dementia improvement programme to continue to be brought for information and discussion to this Committee.

5.3. Local Government Association - Safeguarding Adults Peer Review

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the findings of the report and the action plan and timescales.

5.4. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Risk Register Quarter 4 2021/22

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the Quarter 4 2021/22 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.

5.5. Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to approve the proposed work programme, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee –  
7 July 2022

- 6.1. The following reports were considered by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7 July 2022 and are listed here to enable the Council to discuss any issues arising at this meeting as the minutes are not yet available:

6.2. Attendance of the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services

6.3. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

6.4. Work Programme

7. Recommendation

- 7.1. It is recommended that Council notes the report in relation to Overview and Scrutiny activity.

Contact for further details

Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services  
Telephone: 01634 332509 Email: [wayne.hemingway@medway.gov.uk](mailto:wayne.hemingway@medway.gov.uk)

## Appendices

None

## Background papers

[Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10 May 2022](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=5479&Ver=4)

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=5479&Ver=4>

[Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 June 2022](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=5387&Ver=4)

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=5387&Ver=4>

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 June 2022](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=437&MId=5404&Ver=4)

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=437&MId=5404&Ver=4>

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 June 2022](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=5416&Ver=4)

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=5416&Ver=4>

[Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 July 2022](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=5450&Ver=4)

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=5450&Ver=4>