

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 DECEMBER 2022

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from/author: Jon Pitt, 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 proposed 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 November 2022.
- 3.2 The 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 At the pre-agenda meeting it was requested that the following reports scheduled for the 8 December meeting be deferred:
- i) Highway Asset Management Strategy to the 17 January 2023 to align with consideration of the Annual Review of the Volker Highways Contract.

- ii) Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan Update to a future meeting of the Committee as the Council had not yet received feedback from the Government on its submission.
- 3.4 It was also requested that a report in relation to the Transport for the South East Strategic Investment Plan be added to the Committee Work Programme for the 17 January for the Committee to consider ahead of it being presented to Cabinet in February.
- 3.5 It was agreed at the pre-agenda meeting that the possible addition to the Work Programme of a report on the Bus Service Improvement Programme would be discussed at the next pre-agenda meeting.
- 3.6 The S106 Developer Contributions report that is also on the agenda for this meeting of the Committee recommends that the annual Medway Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) is reported to the Committee following its agreement by Cabinet. Subject to the Committee agreeing this recommendation and agreement of the IFS by the Cabinet on 13 December 2022, this would be added to the Committee Work Programme for consideration at the January meeting.
- 3.7 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, 2021 and to date in 2022 are attached as Appendices B to E.
4. Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 August 2022
- 4.1 On 25 August 2022, the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on its current work programme and discussed the future scrutiny of Medway Norse. Members were supportive of the proposal for the Committee to receive an annual strategic report, with the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to consider an annual operational report.
- 4.2 It was suggested that the Members of both Committees have sight of the latest Service Level Agreement between the Council and Medway Norse, prior to the next reports.
- 4.3 Amongst other things, the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed:
- the programming of an annual strategic report on Medway Norse at the most appropriate meeting and the recommendation to the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it programmes an annual operational Medway Norse report, subject to any necessary amendments to its terms of reference.

- 4.4 For this recommendation to be implemented a change to the Overview and Scrutiny Rules set out within the Council’s Constitution (Chapter 4, Part 5) would be required. This is a matter for Full Council.
- 4.5 An excerpt from the Council’s Constitution with proposed tracked changes is set out at Appendix F to the report. It should be noted that any Medway Norse operational matters considered by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee ought to fall within the existing remit of the Committee e.g. it would not include Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Travel Assistance (this will still be reported to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
- 4.6 At a previous pre-agenda meeting, adding this report to the Committee’s work programme with a date to be determined (subject to Full Council agreement to change the Overview and Scrutiny Rules within the Council’s Constitution) was recommended.
- 4.7 The Committee is therefore asked to agree the proposed work programme, which has been updated in light of the pre-agenda meeting, set out at Appendix A to the report and agree to recommend to Full Council to change the Overview and Scrutiny Rules set out in the Council’s Constitution (Chapter 4, Part 5) as set out in Appendix F to the report.

5. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 5.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 14 November 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>
Planning Service: Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement	13 December 2022
Union Place Car Park, Chatham	13 December 2022
Highway Asset Management Strategy – On the Committee’s Work Programme for January meeting	10 January 2023
Medway Development Company Ltd - Six Month Report	10 January 2023
Capital and Revenue Budgets 2023/24 – on the Committee’s agenda for this meeting	7 February 2023

Council Plan Performance Monitoring and Risk Register Review Quarter 3 2022/23 – on the Committee’s Work Programme for the March meeting	7 February 2023
River Strategy – on the Committee’s agenda for this meeting	7 February 2023
South Thames Gateway Building Control Business Plan	7 February 2023
Transport for the South East Strategic Investment Plan – on the Committee’s agenda for this meeting	7 February 2023

6. Financial and legal implications

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

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) Agree the proposed work programme, set out at Appendix A to the report, which includes the recommendations of the pre-agenda meeting outlined in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.5 of the report and the other changes proposed at paragraphs 3.6 and 4.6 to 4.7 of the report.
- b) Agree to recommend to Full Council to change to the Overview and Scrutiny Rules set out in the Council’s Constitution (Chapter 4, Part 5) as set out in Appendix F to the report.
- c) 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

Appendix E – Index of briefing notes 2022

Appendix F – Proposed tracked changes to Council Constitution

Background papers

None