

COUNCIL

19 JANUARY 2023

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 10 November 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 – 24 November 2022

2.1. Procurement Strategy 2021 to 2025 - 2022 Update Report

Outcome:

1. The Committee noted the achievements of the second year of the 2021-2025 Procurement Strategy as outlined in Appendix 1 with updated comments.
2. The Committee considered the delivery of the objectives marked for carry forward in Appendix 1 and referred its comments to Cabinet.

2.2. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary Quarter 2 2022/23

Outcome:

1. The Committee considered the Q2 2022/23 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities and

noted the amended Strategic Risk Summary as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

2. The Committee noted the classification of risks as live or managed as set out in sections 2.7 and 2.8 of the report.

2.3. Business Support Department Risk Register Summary

Outcome:

1. The Committee noted the Business Support Directorate Risk Summary as shown in Appendix 1: BSD Risk Summary of the report.
2. The Committee recommended to the other overview and scrutiny committees that they have sight of Directorate risk summaries as outlined in section 2.2 and 2.3 of the report.

2.4. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2022/23

Outcome:

The Committee noted the results of the second round of capital budget monitoring for 2022/23, and the management actions to resolve the projected overspend in Children's and Adults which would be the subject of a future report to both Cabinet and Council.

2.5. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2022/23

Outcome:

The Committee noted the results of the second round of revenue budget monitoring for 2022/23 and that Cabinet had instructed senior management to continue to exercise tight control to reduce expenditure within their areas and to identify a range of management actions to reduce expenditure or increase income.

2.6. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2023/2024

Outcome:

1. The Committee noted that Cabinet had instructed officers to continue to work with Portfolio Holders in formulating robust proposals to balance the budget for 2023/24.
2. The Committee commented on the proposals outlined in the draft capital and revenue budgets and forwarded proposals to the individual overview and scrutiny committees.
3. The Committee noted the timetable for consideration by overview and scrutiny is as follows:

Business Support	24 November 2022
Children & Young People	29 November 2022
Health & Adult Social Care	1 December 2022
Regeneration, Culture & Environment	8 December 2022
Business Support	25 January 2023
Cabinet	7 February 2023
Council	23 February 2023

2.7. Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee:

1. Agreed the committee's work programme at Appendix 1 of the report, subject to the inclusion of the draft revised Contract Procedure Rules on the agenda for the meeting of 25 January 2023; and
2. noted the work programmes of the other overview and scrutiny committees at Appendix 2.

3. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 29 November 2022

3.1. The Current State of the Custodial Estate for Children in Medway

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the report.
- b) The Committee recommended to Oasis Restore that consideration be given to the appointment of a Medway representative on the Board of Governors.

3.2. Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2021-22

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting of 17 December 2022.

3.3. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2023/2024

Outcome:

- i. The Committee noted the contents of the report and requested:
- ii. A briefing update on Aut Even (when the way forward was clear);
- iii. An update report to the Committee on the Safety Valve Intervention Programme;

- iv. A copy of the High Needs Block Funding report submitted to the Schools Forum to be shared with Committee Members; and
- v. The outcome of the work officers were undertaking in relation to the High Needs Block historic spend, be shared with Committee Members.

3.4. Children and Young People's Plan

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and recommended that in addition to the Health and Wellbeing Board having a role in monitoring progress of the CYPP at a partnership level, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee also be provided with the opportunity to scrutinise the Plan's progress.

3.5. Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

3.6. Update on the Safety Valve Intervention Programme

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

3.7. Council Plan Performance Monitoring & Risk Register Review Quarter 2 2022/23

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

3.8. OFSTED Monitoring Visit Children's Services

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

3.9. Work Programme

Outcome:

a) The Committee agreed the work programme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

b) That a briefing note update be requested from youth service on the Raising Youth CIO.

4. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 December 2023

4.1. Community Diagnostic Centres

Outcome:

The Committee:

- a) agreed that the proposal from the Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership to develop community diagnostic centres in Medway and Swale did not constitute a substantial variation or development in the provision of health services in Medway.
- b) requested a site visit at the Rochester Healthy Living Centre site to discuss parking and anti-social behaviour and requested that the police be invited to attend.
- c) requested regular updates on progress with establishing the community diagnostic centres, via briefing notes.

4.2. Kent and Medway Adult Learning Disability and Autism Collaborative Update

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the report.
- b) request a briefing paper on work to increase experts by experience from Medway.
- c) request that an Easy Read version of the Kent and Medway Learning Disability and Autism Strategy be circulated to Members once available.

4.3. Care Quality Commission - Local Authority Assessment Framework

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report and thank staff for their efforts.

4.4. Kent and Medway Interim Integrated Care Strategy

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report and forward its comments to Cabinet.

4.5. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note that Cabinet had instructed officers to continue to work with Portfolio Holders in formulating robust proposals to balance the budget for 2023/24.
- b) forward its comment on the proposals outlined in the draft capital and revenue budgets to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.6. Council Plan Performance Monitoring report and Strategic Risk Summary Quarter 2 - 2022/23

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note Q2 2022/23 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.
- b) note the amended Strategic Risk Summary as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
- c) note the classification of risks as live or managed as set out in sections 2.7 and 2.8 of the report.
- d) send a letter of thanks to staff involved in reducing the numbers of people waiting for home care.

4.7. Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee approved the proposed work programme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

5. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 December 2022

5.1. Attendance by the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and thanked the Portfolio Holder for attending the meeting and answering questions.

5.2. Annual Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership, Including an Update on the Community Safety Plan 2020 - 2024

Outcome:

- a) Noted the findings of the strategic assessment.
- b) Supported the refreshed CSP priorities in light of the strategic assessment findings.
- c) Scrutinised the activity of the Community Safety Partnership, over the past year, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.
- d) Requested that reasons be provided as to why the Probation Service had not been represented at the Committee meeting.
- e) Requested that a briefing note be provided to the Committee in January 2023 on the work of the Combatting Drugs Partnership,
- f) Requested that a briefing note be provided to the Committee six months after the Community Safety Partnership's attendance at Committee and annually thereafter.
- g) Requested that Councillors feedback their views on priorities to the Community Safety Partnership.

5.3. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary Quarter 2 2022/23

Outcome:

- a) The Committee considered the Q2 2022/23 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities and considered the amended Strategic Risk Summary, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
- b) The Committee noted the classification of risks as live or managed, as set out in sections 2.6 and 2.7 of the report.
- c) The Committee determined that it would like sight of the RCE Directorate Risk Summary, as set out in section 2.8 of the report.
- d) The Committee requested that officers look at better ways of incorporating climate objectives and air quality information into future performance monitoring reports.

5.4. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee noted that Cabinet had instructed officers to continue to work with Portfolio Holders in formulating robust proposals to balance the budget for 2023/24.

5.5. River Strategy Progress Update

Outcome:

The Committee:

- a) Noted progress on the River Strategy.
- b) Requested that the AECOM report be circulated to the Committee once available.
- c) Requested that Members provide officers suggested consultees in relation to development of the Strategy.
- d) Noted that the River Strategy would next be presented to the Committee in Summer 2023.

5.6. S106 Developer Contributions

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the contents of this report and its appendices.
- b) The Committee agreed that a quarterly S106 briefing note for all Members be introduced in line with information reported to Planning Committee on:
 - S106 agreements completed in each quarter and the obligations/contributions included in these agreements
 - S106 contributions received in each quarter and which services the funding would support.
- c) The Committee agreed that following the approval of the annual Medway Infrastructure Funding Statement by the Cabinet, that the document be reported to the next meeting of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5.7. Petitions

Outcome:

The Committee noted the petition responses and appropriate officer action set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report.

5.8. Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee:

- a) Agreed 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) Agreed 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) Confirmed a request that a briefing note be provided to the Committee in January 2023 on the work of the Combatting Drugs Partnership,
- d) Confirmed a requested that a briefing note be provided to the Committee six months after the Community Safety Partnership's attendance at Committee and annually thereafter.

6. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 January 2023

6.1. The following reports were considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 January 2023 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. Medway Youth Council Annual Conference Report

6.3. Adoption Partnership South East, Regional Adoption Agency, Annual Report 2022

6.4. Curriculum Diversity

6.5. Tackling Racism in Schools

6.6. Work programme

7. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12 January 2023

7.1. The following reports were considered by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 12 January 2023 and are listed here to enable the Council to discuss any issues arising at this meeting as the minutes are not yet available:

7.2. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services

- 7.3. South East Coast Ambulance Service Update
- 7.4. Update from Medway NHS Foundation Trust
- 7.5. Kent and Medway Elective Orthopaedic Unit
- 7.6. Section 136 Pathway and Health-Based Place of Safety Service Improvement
- 7.7. GP Access Task Group - Interim Report
- 7.8. Work programme
8. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 January 2023
 - 8.1. The following reports were considered by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 17 January 2023 and are listed here to enable the Council to discuss any issues arising at this meeting as the minutes are not yet available:
 - 8.2. Petitions
 - 8.3. Attendance of the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services
 - 8.4. Member's Item: Road Safety
 - 8.5. Highway Infrastructure Contract – Annual Review
 - 8.6. Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy
 - 8.7. Transport for the South East – Strategic Investment Plan
 - 8.8. Infrastructure Funding Statement
 - 8.9. Work programme
9. Recommendation
 - 9.1. It is recommended that Council notes the report in relation to Overview and Scrutiny activity.

Contact for further details

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Appendices

None

Background papers

[Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 November 2022](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=5453&Ver=4)
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=5453&Ver=4>

[Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 29 November 2022](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=5390&Ver=4)
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=5390&Ver=4>

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 December 2023](#)

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 December 2022](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=437&MId=5407&Ver=4)
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=437&MId=5407&Ver=4>

[Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 January 2023](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=531&Ver=4)
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=531&Ver=4>

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12 January 2023](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=5420&Ver=4)
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=5420&Ver=4>

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 January 2023](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=437&MId=5408&Ver=4)
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=437&MId=5408&Ver=4>