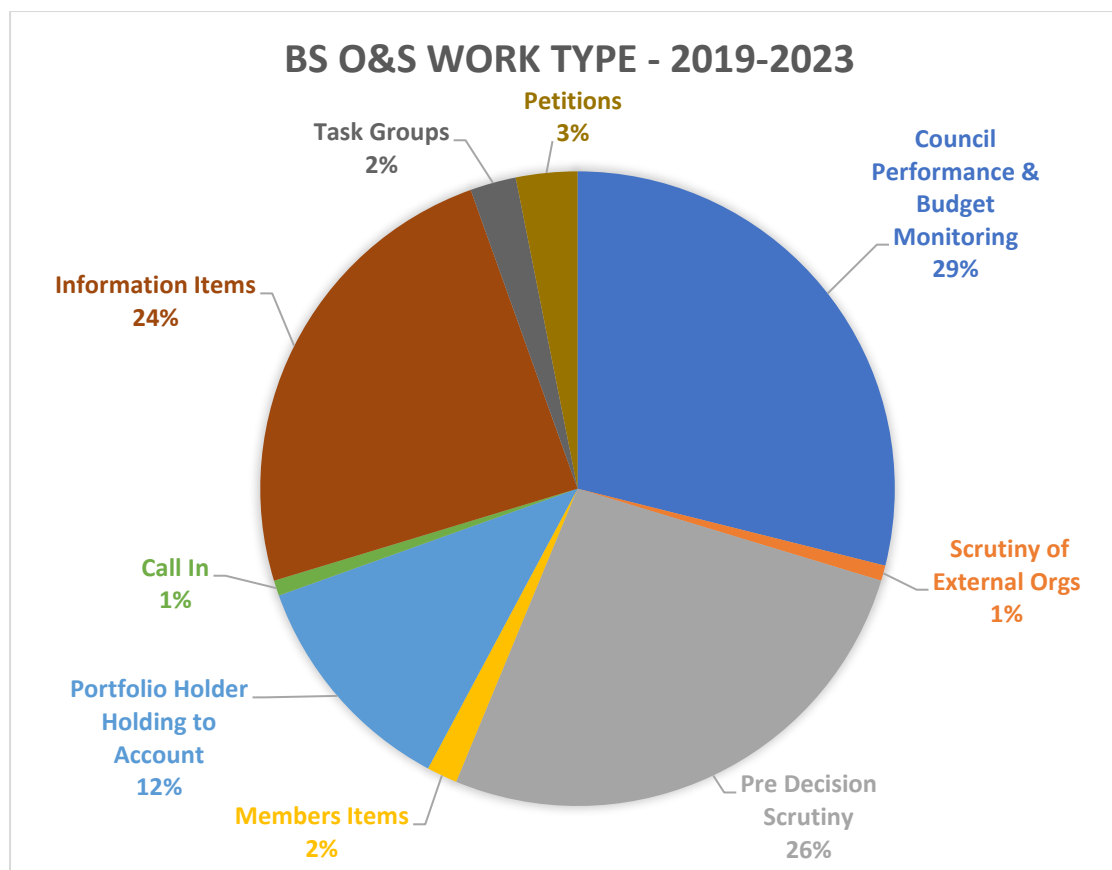


Review of the work of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2019-2023

Business considered by the Committee.



Business type	Number
Council Performance & Budget Monitoring	37
Scrutiny of External Orgs	1
Pre-Decision Scrutiny	34
Members' Items	2
Portfolio Holder Holding to Account	15
Call In	1
Health Service Substantial Variations	0
Information Items	31
Task Groups	3
Petitions	4
TOTALS	128

Recommendations submitted to Cabinet	48
Recommendations accepted by Cabinet	36

Update - Voluntary Sector Task Group

Background:

At the 4 August 2020 Cabinet meeting, the Voluntary Sector Task Group recommendations, recommended for approval by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee were presented for the sustainability and future relationship of the voluntary sector in Medway. At the 15 December 2020 Cabinet meeting a number of recommendations were approved.

The recommendations focused on a written document between the Council and the sector, working with the Integrated Care Partnership to recruit local NHS support for the sector, developing a community lottery programme to help provide sustainable funding for the voluntary sector, developing a business case to create a single point of contact between the council and sector. Developing a social value policy and climate change partnership with the NHS and the VCS.

March 2023 update:

The Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the VCS which outlined the principles of the local relationship. This was followed by the co-design of a strategic framework that provided more details about the partnership with the following vision *“To build strong and resilient communities supported by a thriving Voluntary and Community Sector putting prevention at the heart of health and care services”*. Work is ongoing to complete the logic model that outlines the tangible short, medium and long term outcomes to demonstrate the impact of these documents.

The Public Health team are recruiting a full time Project Officer who will continue to act as a key point of contact between the local authority and the voluntary sector. This is a legacy role from the Better Connected interreg funding. Interviews for this post happen in March 2023 with a leader from the VCS on the interview panel.

The Medway lottery has launched with the following information accurate as of 4th March 2023. Ticket sales has resulted in a total value of £19,624 being spread between 59 good causes. The central fund application process is currently being finalized between officers and members, before being promoted to the local VCS.

Medway Council support of the VCS:

The Medway VCS ‘Better Together’ Consortium Services are funded through Adult Social Care, Children’s Social Care and the Better Care Fund. The Better Care Fund operates under a Section 75 pooled budget agreement between Medway Council and NHS Kent and Medway (NHSKM). Central Government and the Local Reform and Community Voices Grant provide funding for Local Healthwatch Medway. Adults Partnership Commissioning are responsible for the commissioning and management of the services on behalf for Children and Adult Social Care services.

The services support several local strategies and enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations:

- The Care Act 2014 imposes statutory requirements on Medway Council Local authorities must maintain registers for blind (severely sight impaired) and partially sighted people (sight impaired). The registers enable the Council to plan services to support these individuals.
- Children and Families Act 2014: Requires Local Authorities to ensure that young carers caring role does not become excessive or inappropriate.
- Health and Social Care Act 2012 and new amendments in the (Feb 2022): by joining up care for people, places, and populations:
- Ensures Medway Council meet statutory obligations to commission an independent Local Healthwatch under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012).
- The Levelling up the United Kingdom White Paper aims to increase healthy life expectancy and narrow the gap between the highest and lowest areas by 2030.
- The National Social Prescribing Agenda, Medway and Swale Social Prescribing Five Year Plan, the new Kent and Medway Social Prescribing Strategy being developed, by ensuring services are in place to refer to The wider Medway and Swale Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Framework.
- NHS England's Long-Term Plan; supporting personalised care through a range of support in the community.
- The Integrated Care System, by improving outcomes (population health and Care) for all Medway residents.
- The Medway People Strategy 2021-2025 that sets a partnership approach across the system for the best possible outcomes for Medway residents, enabling residents to live independent and fulfilled lives into old age.
- Joint Medway Carers Strategy 2019-2025 and its delivery plan, that recognise the essential contribution that carers make by supporting Medway carers, both young and old to continue to carry out this valuable role.

The contracts consist of 5 lots and are currently within the recommissioning process.

The lots are:

Lot	Service
1	Infrastructure to support the Voluntary Community Services (VCS) Organisations in Medway, awarded to Medway Voluntary Action (MVA)
2	Local Healthwatch, awarded to Engaging Kent (now known as EK360)

3	Welfare, Debt and Advice Support Service including Local Welfare Provision (LWP), awarded to Citizens Advice Medway (CAB)
4	Carers Information, Guidance and Support, Young Carers and Carers Support Payments, awarded to Carers First,
5	Children's and Adults Visually Impaired Support and Information Services, awarded to Kent Association for the Blind (KAB

Outstanding matters and action

Whilst most requests for briefing notes and any follow up action have been met, there remains the following requests are currently outstanding, and all efforts will continue to be made to deal with these as soon as possible.

31 March 2022

Agenda item: **Capital Budget Monitoring 2022/23 R3**

Action: Capital schemes with payback – Provide a briefing note on capital schemes with payback, detailing when payback was due and any differential on what was originally agreed.

25 August 2022

Agenda item: **Revenue and Budget Outturn 2021/22**

Action: Write to the 3 local MPs raising concerns about the ongoing financial pressures facing Children and Adult Services.

Agenda item: **Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register**

Action: Establish why PH17 – Breast feeding initiation is significantly below target.

Action: Establish why EDU3(b) – Percentage of children persistently absent from school, is significantly below target.

24 November 2022

Agenda item: **Council Plan Performance Monitoring and Risk Register Q2.**

Action: Send the Damp and Mould Policy to Members.

Agenda item: Capital Budget Monitoring – Round 2 2022/23

Action: Provide a briefing note on the Members' Priority fund decision making process.

Agenda item: Revenue Budget Monitoring – Round 2 2022/23

Action: Provide a briefing note on the breakdown of charges to individual service budgets, for example to cover Counsel fees, when planning appeals were made.

25 January 2023

Agenda item: Medway Norse Update

Action: Provided details of occasions where expert specialists had to be brought in for some services under the contract, for example in the Theatres.

Action: Consider a request to circulate a copy of the existing contact between Medway Norse and Medway Council to all Members of the Council.

Agenda item: HRA Budget 2023/24

Action: Provide a detailed breakdown of the increase in rent arrears.