

COUNCIL

19 OCTOBER 2023

REPORT ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Report from: Richard Hicks, 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 20 July 2023.

1. Recommendation

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

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1. 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.

3. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 3 August 2023

- 3.1. Meeting Theme: Education and Special Educational Needs and Disability – Medway Joint Local Area SEND Action Plan, SEND Inspection Performance Update and Post-16 Review

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report on Medway Joint Local Area SEND Action Plan, SEND Inspection Performance Update and Post 16 Review.

- 3.2. Annual Fostering Report (2022 - 2023)

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Annual Fostering Report (2022-2023).

3.3. Work Programme

The Committee agreed to:

- a) Note the work programme as set out in appendix 1 to the work programme report.
- b) Identify up to two potential Task Group topics for consideration at a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons and Opposition Spokespersons.

4. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 August 2023

4.1. Future Hoo: Housing Infrastructure Fund

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report and to also note the Cabinet decision set out at section 6 of the report.

4.2. Capital Budget Monitoring – Round 1 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the results of the first round of capital budget monitoring for 2023/24.
- b) note the changes made to the capital programme as set out in 9.1 and 9.2 to the report.
- c) note that Cabinet had recommended to Council the removal of the completed Platters Farm Panels and Rainham Signage schemes from the Members Priorities capital programme.
- d) note that Cabinet had recommended to Council the removal of the unallocated balance of £49.751million from the Medway Development Company programme.

4.3. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Round 1 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2023/24.
- b) note that Cabinet had approved the virement of £500,000 from the Independent Fostering Agency budget to the internal fostering budget to reflect the increased internal fostering rates.

- c) note that Cabinet instructed the Corporate Management Team to implement urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by Full Council.

4.4. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary Quarter 1 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the Q1 2023/24 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities also the strategic risks that fell under the remit of the Committee.
- b) request a briefing paper explaining the location of the 5 key routes across Medway and also how the data was captured and used.

4.5. Petitions

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the petition responses and appropriate officer actions in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

4.6. Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee:

- a) noted the report and agreed the work programme as set out at Appendix A to the report, subject to accepting the proposed changes, outlined in italic text on Appendix A.
- b) agreed that Public Transport/Active Travel and the new Social Housing Regime as the Committee's potential Task Group topics for consideration at a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons and Opposition Spokespersons.
- c) agreed to trial the inclusion in the agenda papers of action logs providing updates on previous decisions and actions.

5. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 22 August 2023

5.1. Substance Misuse Services (Treatment and Enforcement) Update

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the report.
- b) request an update to the March 2024 meeting, including details of the continuity of care between custody and community pick up rate.

5.2. Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) Update

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report and requested that the Trust provided updates at all future meetings, on a thematic basis.

5.3. Emergency Transfer of Medway and Swale Transient-Ischaemic Attack Service

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the report.
- b) express its disappointment at not being informed of this emergency transfer at the time.
- c) request that the ICB, in the case of any future emergency service transfers, notifies the Committee as soon as possible that consultation will not take place and the reason for this.
- d) request a report to the October meeting setting out whether the TIA service will be coming back to Medway and when this will happen and, if not, what are the reasons.

5.4. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 Round 1

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2023/24.

- b) note that Cabinet approved the virement of £500,000 from the independent fostering agency budget to the internal fostering budget to reflect the increased internal fostering rates.
- c) note that Cabinet instructed the corporate management team to implement urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by full Council.

5.5. Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 Round 1

Outcome:

The committee agreed to:

- a) note the results of the first round of capital budget monitoring for 2023/24.
- b) note the changes made to the capital programme as set out in 7.1 to the report.
- c) request an update in the next report on progress with the Healthy Living Centre at the Pentagon in Chatham.

5.6. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report & Strategic Risk Summary Quarter 1 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the Q1 2023/24 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities and to also note the strategic risks that fell under the remit of the Committee.

5.7. Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the report and agree the work programme as set out at appendix 1 to the report, subject to accepting the proposed changes, outlined in italic text on Appendix 1.
- b) submit for consideration as a potential task group topic the issue of the impact of air quality on health.
- c) hold a special meeting on 20 September to discuss the planned procurement and service development process for the community contracts held by the Integrated Care Board and also a Member Briefing on this issue at 7pm on 20 August.
- d) note the response to the SECAMB quality account 2022/23 as set out at page 83 of appendix 2 to the report.

- e) consider a suggestion that all three Group Leaders be asked to write to the Government welcoming the opening of the Community Diagnostic Centre at the next agenda planning meeting.

6. Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 31 August 2023

6.1. Local Authority Trading Companies

Outcome:

- 1) The Committee noted the Cabinet's decision, as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report.
- 2) The Committee noted progress in the establishment of the three shareholder boards.

6.2. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report & Strategic Risk Summary Quarter 1 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Q1 2023/24 performance of the programme that fell under the remit of this committee (Appendix 1) and noted the strategic risks that fell under the remit of this committee (Appendix 2).

6.3. Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 Round 1

Outcome:

The Committee noted the results of the first round of capital budget monitoring for 2023/24.

6.4. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 Round 1

Outcome:

- 1) The Committee noted the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2023/24.
- 2) The Committee noted that Cabinet approved the virement of £500,000 from the Independent Fostering Agency budget to the internal fostering budget to reflect the increased internal fostering rates.
- 3) The Committee noted that Cabinet had instructed the Corporate Management Team to implement urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by Full Council.
- 4) The Committee agreed to receive a report on the Council's use of locums and related costs at a future meeting.

6.5. Cost of Living Crisis Response Plan 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Cost of Living Crisis Response Plan 2023-2024 for Medway as set out at Appendix 1.

6.6. Work Programme

Outcome:

- 1) The Committee agreed the work programme at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2) The Committee noted the work programmes of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees at Appendix 2.
- 3) The Committee identified the following two potential Task Group topics for consideration at a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons and Opposition Spokespersons:
 - Air Quality
 - Medway 2.0

7. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 September 2023

7.1. Reprourement of Community Services Contracts

Outcome:

The Committee considered the proposals from the Integrated Care Board and determined that they constituted a substantial variation or development in the provision of health services in Medway.

8. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 October 2023

- 8.1. The following reports were considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 October 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. Children's Services Update Including Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services Findings (ILACS), Workforce and Sufficiency
- 8.3. Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report 2022-2023
- 8.4. Capital Budget Monitoring Round 1 2023/24
- 8.5. Revenue Budget Monitoring Round 1 2023/24

- 8.6. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report & Strategic Risk Summary Quarter 1 2023/24
- 8.7. Work programme
9. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 18 October 2023
- 9.1. The following report was due to be considered by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18 October 2023 and is listed here to enable the Council to discuss any issues arising at this meeting as the minutes are not yet available:
- 9.2. Call-In: Safer Healthier Streets Programme - Red Routes and Moving Traffic Enforcement

Contact for further details

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Appendices

None

Background papers

[Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 3 August 2023](#)

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 August 2023](#)

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 22 August 2023](#)

[Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 31 August 2023](#)

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 September 2023](#)

[Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 October 2023](#)

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 18 October 2023](#)