

## **Council**

**18 April 2024**

### **Report on Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

Report from: Richard Hicks, 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 24 January 2024.

#### **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. Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 February 2024**

- 3.1. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

- 3.2. Procurement Strategy 2021-2025: Update Report 2023

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the achievements of the third year of the 2021-2025 Procurement Strategy as outlined in in Appendix 1 with updated comments.

- b) The Committee considered the delivery of actions denoted within the '2023 Comments and Action' column, against the various objectives in Appendix 1, with a concerted, wider drive to improvements within the Contract and Relationship Management, as well as embedding change themes.

### 3.3. Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2024/25

Outcome:

The Committee commented on the proposals outlined in the Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets in so far as they relate to the services within the remit of this committee, and considered the comments from the individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as set out in Appendix 1, and determined which of these are forwarded to Cabinet, contributing to the overall comments that the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee fed back to Cabinet.

### 3.4. Risk Strategy Annual Review

Outcome:

The Committee considered the 2024/25 Risk Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and submitted comments to Cabinet.

### 3.5. Update on Response to the Employee Survey 2022

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

### 3.6. Work Programme

Outcome:

- a) The Committee agreed the work programme at Appendix 1 to the report.
- b) The Committee noted the work programmes of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees at Appendix 2.

## 4. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 28 February 2024

### 4.1. Petitions

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the petition responses and appropriate officer actions in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

- b) The Committee considered the petition referral requested at section 5 of the report and the Director of Place's response.
- c) The committee requested that further work was undertaken with St Benedict's School to look to reduce the impacts of the school run on residents on Lambourn Way and Knole Road, and that the transport team reviewed its maintenance programme to check what the road condition was assessed as.

#### 4.2. Attendance of Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

#### 4.3. Draft Housing Strategy to 2030

Outcome:

The Committee concurred with Regeneration, Culture and Environment Departmental Management Team (DMT) and Children and Adults DMT that the Draft Housing Strategy to 2030 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) proceeds to Cabinet with a view to approval in March 2024.

#### 4.4. Corporate Building Survey Results

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the need for the increased investment to the BRMF to ensure the corporate estate portfolio remains safe, warm and dry and a valuable set of assets.
- b) The Committee recommended to Cabinet that they ask officers to review their asset management strategy and provide an update and action plan at a future Committee.

#### 4.5. Infrastructure Funding Statement

Outcome:

The Committee noted the content of the report.

#### 4.6. Work Programme

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the report and agreed the work programme as set out at Appendix A to the report.
- b) The Committee noted the action log as set out at Appendix B to the report.

## 5. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 March 2024

### 5.1. Improvement Update

Outcome:

- 1) The Committee noted the Improvement Update Report, and the steps taken to drive and sustain ongoing improvements.
- 2) The Committee noted that maintaining a focus on improving services and embedding changes would significantly contribute to better outcomes for children and families in Medway.

### 5.2. Children's Services Workforce Update

Outcome:

- 1) The Committee noted the children's services workforce update, the challenges, and barriers to recruiting a permanent workforce and the steps taken to drive progress.
- 2) The Committee noted that improving workforce stability would significantly contribute to better outcomes for children and families in Medway.

### 5.3. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

### 5.4. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Education

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report.

### 5.5. Children and Young People's Mental Health Future Contracts

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report, supported the contracting approach described in the report and that NHS Kent and Medway continue to provide regular updates to the Committee as the work progresses.

5.6. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 3 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Q3 2023/24 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.

5.7. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 3 2023/24

Outcome:

- 1) The Committee noted the results of the third round of capital budget monitoring for 2023/24 and the management actions to resolve the projected overspend in Children's and Adults.
- 2) The Committee noted the changes made to the capital programme as set out in 8.1 to 8.3 to the report.
- 3) The Committee noted that Cabinet of 13 February 2024 recommended to Council the removal of the following budget relating to a scheme that is complete or no longer required:
  - Aiming Higher for Children with Disabilities, funded from Capital Grants.

5.8. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 Round 3

Outcome:

- 1) The Committee noted the results of the third round of revenue budget monitoring for 2023/24.
- 2) The Committee noted that Cabinet instructed the Corporate Management Team to implement further urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by Full Council.
- 3) The Committee noted that Council, at its meeting on 29 February 2024, agreed to declassify the following amounts currently held in earmarked reserves and transfer them to general reserves:
  - £4.00million held in the South Medway Development Reserve,
  - £1.00million held in the Transformation Reserve, and
  - £727,000 held in the Mosaic Forms Reserve.

## 5.9. Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report, agreed the work programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, and accepted the proposed changes, outlined in italic text on Appendix 1.

## 6. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 March 2024

### 6.1. Primary Care Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental Services

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report and receive an update in August 2024 on the areas highlighted above where Members had requested further information.

### 6.2. Medway Community Health Care

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the report.
- b) request a briefing note regarding Continuing Health Care End of Life carers, specifically what percentage of hours had been reduced to remain within funding.

### 6.3. Update on the future of the Medway (and Swale) Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) Service

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to:

- a) note the report
- b) support the ICB's recommended option regarding the future of the TIA service, as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

### 6.4. South East Coast Ambulance Service: Update

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the report and request an update in March 2025.

6.5. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 3 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the Quarter 3 2023/24 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities and to also note the Quarter 3 2023/24 Strategic Risk Summary.

6.6. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 3 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the results of the third round of capital budget monitoring for 2023/24.

6.7. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 Round 3

Outcome:

The committee agreed to:

- a) note the results of the third round of revenue budget monitoring for 2023/24
- b) note that Cabinet instructed the Corporate Management Team to implement further urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by Full Council.
- c) note that Council agreed to declassify the following amounts currently held in earmarked reserves and transfer them to general reserves;
  - £4.00million held in the South Medway Development Reserve,
  - £1.00million held in the Transformation Reserve, and
  - £727,000 held in the Mosaic Forms Reserve.

6.8. Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee approved the work programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to accepting the proposed changes, outlined in italic text.

7. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 26 March 2024

- 7.1. The following reports were considered by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 26 March 2024 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. Petitions
- 7.3. Attendance of Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment
- 7.4. Highways Infrastructure Contract - Annual Review
- 7.5. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Register Summary Quarter 3 2023/24
- 7.6. Capital Budget Monitoring Round 3 2023/24
- 7.7. Revenue Budget Monitoring Round 3 2023/24
- 7.8. Work Programme
8. Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 April 2024
  - 8.1. The following reports were considered by the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 1 April 2024 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. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder Business Management
  - 8.3. Attendance of the Leader of the Council
  - 8.4. One Medway Council Plan 2024-2028
  - 8.5. Advertising and Sponsorship Policy
  - 8.6. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 3 2023/24
  - 8.7. Capital Budget Monitoring – Round 3 2023/24
  - 8.8. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Round 3 2023/24
  - 8.9. Work Programme

#### 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 and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 February 2024](#)

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 28 February 2024](#)

[Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 March 2024](#)

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 March 2024](#)

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 26 March 2024](#)

[Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 April 2024](#)