

## **Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**13 June 2024**

### **Work Programme**

Report from/author: Nicola Couchman, 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. Recommendations**

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the report and agree the work programme as set out at Appendix A to the report.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to note the action log as set out at Appendix B to the report.
- 1.3 The Committee is asked to note the action referred from Audit Committee regarding 2 uninhabited flats and the explanation that has been provided.

#### **2. Budget and policy framework**

- 2.1 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.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Appendix A to this report sets out the proposed work programme for this Committee.

#### **4. Agenda Planning Meeting**

- 4.1 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 took place on 16 May 2024.

- 4.2 The work programme has been amended to change the timescale for the item titled 'Dog Management Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)' from 13 June to 15 August 2024 and agreed dates for Portfolio Holder attendance have been added.
- 4.3 Since the agenda planning meeting the Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation has been rescheduled and will now go to Overview and Scrutiny Committee's in August and to Cabinet on 9 July. The revised work programme is attached at Appendix A.
- 4.4 As requested previously by this Committee, an updated action log is attached at Appendix B and a list of briefing notes relevant to the work of this Committee which have been circulated in 2022, 2023 and to date in 2024 are attached as Appendices C to E.

## 5. Action referred from Audit Committee

- 5.1 Following a review of the Homes England Compliance Audit report at Audit Committee on 27 March 2024 it was requested the relevant committee (Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee) consider why two of the six the flats purchased for the Rough Sleeping Accommodation programme remained uninhabitable. An explanation has been provided below and is included in this report for the Committee to note.

*As part of the Homes England RSAP (Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme) grant funding scheme, six, one-bedroom flats were acquired for use as move-on accommodation for rough sleepers. Two of these flats were acquired through the market purchase (by the HRA) of the Freehold on a three storey, converted block of three flats with the ground floor and first floor flats being acquired through RSP with the third floor flat occupied by a leaseholder. The purchase completed in early 2023 and not long after, the leaseholder approached the HRA and asked if they would consider purchasing the leasehold flat. This was agreed, but a few months later the leaseholder pulled out and decided to remain in the property. During this time, on further inspection of the flats prior to works being undertaken, some unforeseen structural works were identified. It was decided to wait for the leasehold sale to complete before starting these works as they would affect the leasehold flat and this would minimise any disruption.*

*When the purchase of the leasehold flat fell through, the works were reviewed and as there is a leaseholder the HRA had to follow Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 to consult with the leaseholder on the intended works. This process takes several months as there are three stages each with a minimum of 30 days for responses. The leaseholder was not in agreement with the works identified and so different options were investigated to find a mutually agreeable solution. A way forward was agreed in February 2024 and the HRA have since been finalising the structural engineer recommendations and obtaining quotes for the works. It is anticipated that works will start within the next month, subject to availability of the contractor, and the flats completed this summer.*

## 6. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 6.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 29 May 2024. 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.

<b><u>Title of Decision:</u></b>	<b><u>Anticipated Decision Date:</u></b>
Community Safety Partnership Plan	9 July 2024
Flood Risk Strategy	9 July 2024
Garden Waste Collection Review	9 July 2024
Medway Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation	9 July 2024
Gateway 1 Procurement Commencement – Organic Waste Disposal Contract Extension	27 August 2024
Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 2024/25	27 August 2024
Capital Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 2024/25	27 August 2024
Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Risk Register Review – Quarter 1 2024/25	27 August 2024

## 7. Financial and legal implications

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

### Lead officer contact

Nicola Couchman, Democratic Services Officer  
Telephone: 01634 332106 Email: [nicola.couchman@medway.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.couchman@medway.gov.uk)

### Appendices

Appendix A – Work programme

Appendix B – Action Log

Appendix C – Index of briefing notes 2022

Appendix D – Index of briefing notes 2023

Appendix E – Index of briefing notes 2024

### Background papers

None