

## **Council**

**18 July 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 18 April 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. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12 June 2024**

- 3.1. Medway Youth Council (MYC) Conference Report 2024

##### **Outcome:**

1. The Committee noted the Medway Youth Council (MYC) Annual Conference Report 2024.
2. The Committee recommended that officers present the report at the headteachers forum.
3. The Committee recommended that the report be shared with Foster Carers, Children in Care, and all Primary Schools in Medway.
4. The Committee requested that a report be presented to the Committee in a year on tackling issues of racism and homophobia in schools.
5. The Committee suggested that officers explore how schools and social work teams can further support young people with their experiences.

### 3.2. Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic

Outcome:

1. The Committee noted the report.
2. The Committee agreed that an updated report once recommendations are agreed by Council, be presented to a future meeting.
3. The Committee recommended that officers work with schools on what further support could be put in place to address issues experienced by children in care.

### 3.3. Member's Item: Early Years/Pre School-Funding Rates April 2024-25

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Director's comments in response to the Member's Item.

### 3.4. Medway SEND Local Area Partnership (LAP) Improvement Plan 2024-2025

Outcome:

1. The Committee noted the findings of the February 2024 Joint Area Inspection and the Joint Area Improvement Plan coproduced by the Joint Area SEND Partnership which includes health, social care, education and Medway parents and carers.
2. The Committee recommended that future report be more user friendly and contain a glossary.

### 3.5. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 4 2023/24

Outcome:

1. The Committee noted the Q4 2023/24 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.
2. The Committee noted the Q4 2023/24 Strategic Risk Summary.

### 3.6. Work programme

Outcome:

1. The Committee agreed that a report on the Local Plan be presented to the Committee meeting of 1 August 2024.
2. The Committee agreed the suggestions made for topics to be added to the work programme.

#### 4. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13 June 2024

##### 4.1. Council Plan Performance Monitoring and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 4 2023/24

Outcome:

1. The Committee considered the Q4 2023/24 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities (Appendices 1 and 2).
2. The Committee noted the Q4 2023/24 Strategic Risk Summary (Appendix 3).

##### 4.2. Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024 - 2027

Outcome:

1. The Committee commented on the proposed Community Safety Plan 2024 - 2027 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, and draft Community Safety Action Plan 2024 – 2025 as set out in Appendix 2.
2. The Committee noted that the proposed Community Safety Plan 2024 – 2027 will be considered by Cabinet on 9 July 2024 and will be determined by full Council on 18 July 2024.

##### 4.3. Petitions Report

Outcome:

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

##### 4.4. Work programme

Outcome:

1. The Committee noted the report and agreed the work programme as set out at Appendix A to the report.
2. The Committee noted the action log as set out at Appendix B to the report.
3. The Committee noted the action referred from Audit Committee regarding 2 uninhabited flats and the explanation that had been provided.

## 5. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 18 June 2024

### 5.1. Tributes to James Williams, Director of Public Health

#### Outcome:

The Committee paid tribute to James Williams, the Council's Director of Public Health, who had very sadly passed away in May. The Chairperson, the Opposition Spokesperson, the Acting Director of Public Health and the Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive all paid tribute to James, recognising his transformational approach to public health delivery, his inspirational leadership and his humble and caring nature and fantastic humour, all of which he would be remembered so fondly for. A minute's silence was then held in James' memory.

### 5.2. "Power of the Crowd" Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2022 - 2023

#### Outcome:

The Committee noted the Annual Public Health Report for 2022/23 and requested officers to explore the possibility of recognising FASD awareness month in September 2024.

### 5.3. Integrated Care Strategy Update

#### Outcome:

The Committee noted the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy Delivery Plan and requested a briefing note on family hubs.

### 5.4. Substance Misuse Treatment Services Update

#### Outcome:

### 5.5. Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnerships Trust Strategy Update

#### Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and requested a briefing note providing more information in relation to vacancy and staffing levels, fall-out figures from the opportunity escalator scheme and the Co-occurring Conditions Protocol survey results.

### 5.6. Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic

#### Outcome:

### 1. The Committee noted the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the supplementary agenda

and agreed that its comments be forwarded to Council for consideration at its meeting on 18 July 2024.

2. The Committee also requested a briefing note in relation to the Council's current leisure offer for its children in care.

#### 5.7. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 4 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and requested a briefing note to provide more information on dementia friendly settings.

#### 5.8. Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and agreed 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.

### 6. Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 June 2024

#### 6.1. Medway 2.0 Roadmap

Outcome:

1. The Committee noted the rationale, the approach, timeline, and the resource needed to undertake the work outlined in the roadmap including the formation of a cross party "Member User Testing Group" to allow Councillors to experience and beta-test new services that have been developed.
2. The Committee submitted comments to Cabinet on the external and internal services and processes prioritised for discovery at Appendix 1 as discussed, at the meeting.

#### 6.2. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 4 2023/24

Outcome:

1. The Committee considered the Q4 2023/24 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities (Appendix 1).
2. The Committee noted the Q4 2023/24 Strategic Risk Summary (Appendix 2).

3. The Committee requested Cabinet consider setting targets for tree planting be added to performance monitoring in relation to climate change.

### 6.3. Capital and Revenue Outturn and Annual Debt Write Off Report 2023/24

Outcome:

1. The Committee noted the 2023/24 revenue and capital outturn position as summarised in Section 5 of the report, and the Council's reserves position as summarised in Section 13 of the report.
2. The Committee noted that Cabinet recommended that Council agree to the following additions as set out in Section 12 of the report:
  - £430,000 to the capital programme to fund the overspend reported on the Operational Depot scheme, to be funded by Prudential Borrowing, and
  - £4,655 to the capital programme to fund the overspend on the Mountbatten House Purchase scheme, to be funded from borrowing in advance of the capital receipts expected from the sale of the building to Medway Development Company.
3. The Committee requested the Chief Finance Officer provide the Committee with briefing notes related to earmarked reserves and HRA debt.

### 6.4. Annual Review of the Council's Petitions Scheme

Outcome:

The Committee noted the annual review of the Council's Petitions Scheme.

### 6.5. Work Programme

Outcome:

1. The Committee agreed the provisional 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 to the report.
3. The Committee agreed the scope of the Active Travel and Air Quality Task Group as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.
4. The Committee agreed that the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and officers to consider adding a review on the progress of reduction in the use of non-permanent staff to the work programme on a date to be determined.

Contact for further details

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## Appendices

None

## Background papers

[Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee –  
12 June 2024](#)

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee –  
13 June 2024](#)

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee –  
18 June 2024](#)

[Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee –  
20 June 2024](#)