

Council

17 October 2024

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 18 July 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 – 1 August 2024

- 3.1. Medway Youth Justice Plan 2024-25

Outcome:

The Committee recommended Full Council to approve the Medway Youth Justice Plan 2024 – 2025.

- 3.2. Adoption Partnership South East, Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report 2023/24

Outcome:

The Committee noted the annual report as set out at Appendix 1, which outlined the activity that had taken place across the Adoption Partnership South East between April 2023 – March 2024.

3.3. Annual Fostering Report 2023-2024

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Fostering Service Annual Report 2023-2024.

3.4. Regional Care Co-Operative (RCC) and Aut Even Development Update

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the involvement, implications and aims of being part of the SE RCC pathfinder project.
- b) The Committee noted the external investment into the Aut Even project which is to develop a specialist 5-bedroom home for young people with Learning Disabilities and Autism and neurodiversity.
- c) The Committee recommended that an update report be provided to the Committee on progress in six months.
- d) The Committee recommended that consideration be given to this project being part of a Project Board to comprise of Officers as well as the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People and The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Culture and Environment.

3.5. Medway Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the report.
- b) The Committee recommended that officers ensure that future reports contain child specific policies and user friendly language to be used.

3.6. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2024/25

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the results of the first round of capital budget monitoring for 2024/25.
- b) The Committee noted that Cabinet of 31 July 2024 were asked to approve a virement of £500,000 from the projected underspend on the scheme at Victory Academy to the Greenacre Academy scheme to cover a projected overspend on that scheme.

3.7. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2024/25

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2024/25.

- b) The Committee noted that Cabinet of 31 July 2024 is asked to instruct the Corporate Management Team to implement urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by Full Council.

3.8. 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.

4. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 August 2024

4.1. Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board Community Services Transformation Update

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the update from the Integrated Care Board (ICB), as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- b) The Committee agreed that the updated proposals from the ICB constituted a substantial variation or development in the provision of health services in Medway.
- c) The Committee requested the ICB to publish the timescale, specifically the date by which it requires the Committee to provide its comments in response to the outcome of consultation and the date by which it intends to make a decision, as set out in paragraph 4.9 of the report.
- d) The Committee requested that the ICB provide a briefing paper on the questions in relation to the consultation process.

5. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 August 2024

5.1. Draft Tenancy Strategy 2024

Outcome:

The Committee agreed that the Draft Tenancy Strategy 2024 proceeded to Cabinet with a view to approval in October 2024. The Draft Strategy was attached as appendix 1.

5.2. Medway Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation

Outcome:

The Committee provided feedback on the proposals in the Medway Local Plan consultation in relation to matters regarding the environment, regeneration and culture.

5.3. Capital Budget Monitoring Round 1 2024/2025

Outcome:

The Committee noted the results of the first round of capital budget monitoring for 2024/25.

5.4. Revenue Budget Monitoring Round 1 2024/2025

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2024/25.
- b) The Committee instructed the Corporate Management Team to implement urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by Full Council.

5.5. Petitions Report

Outcome:

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

5.6. 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.

6. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 August 2024

6.1. Medway Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation

Outcome:

The Committee agreed that the comments above be provided as its feedback on the proposals in the Medway Local Plan consultation in relation to matters regarding health and adult social care.

6.2. Medway and Swale Interim Estates Strategy and Healthy Living Centres

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and requested the following:

- That a site visit to the Community Diagnostic Centre in Rochester be arranged for Committee members.
- That an update on Healthy Living Centres and their utilisation be provided to the Committee in six months.
- That a report on Integrated Neighbourhood Teams be provided to the Committee at a future meeting.

6.3. Social Prescribing

Outcome:

The Committee noted the update report provided.

6.4. Primary Care Access Task Group

Outcome:

The Committee noted the updates and progress achieved in implementing the recommendations set out in the GP Access Task Group June 2023 report and requested that the Committee received future reports with a focus on GP access and how more primary care staff could be attracted to the Medway workforce.

6.5. Update on Pharmacy and Dentistry Services

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and agreed to:

- a) Request a briefing note to update the committee with data around Pharmacy First and its use by patients.
- b) The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Secretary of State and the National Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental Director, to

request that more granular data available at a national level in relation to dentistry and new patient data is provided to an ICB level.

6.6. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2024/25

Outcome:

The Committee noted the first round of capital and revenue budget monitoring for 2024/25.

6.7. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2024/25

Outcome:

The Committee noted the first round of capital and revenue budget monitoring for 2024/25.

6.8. Work programme

Outcome:

The Committee agreed the work programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the proposed changes, outlined in italic text being agreed, along with the suggestions made by the Chairperson.

7. Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 21 August 2024

7.1. Medway Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation

Outcome:

The Committee provided feedback on the proposals in Medway Local Plan consultation in relation to matters regarding the scope of the Committee including digital transformation, climate change, services and equalities.

7.2. Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the response received during the consultation and advised on any amendments to the draft policy.
- b) The Committee recommended approval of the draft policy to Cabinet and Council.

7.3. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2024/25

Outcome:

- a) The Committee noted the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2024/25.
- b) The Committee noted that Cabinet instructed the Corporate Management Team to implement urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by Full Council.

7.4. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2024/25

Outcome:

The Committee noted the results of the first round of capital budget monitoring for 2024/25.

7.5. Work Programme

Outcome:

- a) The Committee agreed the provisional 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 to the report.

8. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 3 October 2024

8.1. The following reports were considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 3 October 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. Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

8.3. Childhood Obesity Five Year Plan

8.4. Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

8.5. Missing Children

8.6. Work programme

9. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10 October 2024

9.1. The following reports were due to be considered by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 10 October 2024 and are listed here to enable the Council to discuss any issues arising at this meeting as the minutes are not yet available:

9.2. Attendance of Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration

9.3. Property Asset Management Strategy and Property Review

9.4. Draft Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy to 2030

9.5. Public Space Protection Order - Dog Control

9.6. Petitions Report

9.7. Work Programme

10. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 October 2024

10.1. The following reports were due to be considered by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 15 October 2024 and are listed here to enable the Council to discuss any issues arising at this meeting as the minutes are not yet available:

10.2. Dementia Update

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

10.4. Adult Autism and ADHD Pathway Development and Procurement

10.5. Mortality Rates at Medway NHS Foundation Trust

10.6. Stroke Provision

10.7. Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board Community Services Transformation Update

10.8. Work programme

Contact for further details

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Appendices

None

Background papers

[Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
1 August 2024](#)

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
7 August 2024](#)

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
15 August 2024](#)

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
20 August 2024](#)

[Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
21 August 2024](#)

[Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
3 October 2024](#)

[Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
10 October 2024](#)

[Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
15 October 2024](#)