

Council

23 January 2025

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 agenda items considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees since the last report to Council on 17 October 2024 and the more significant outcomes arising from their deliberations. The comprehensive minutes (not attached) provide greater detail of the work undertaken by each of the committees.

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 at the end of the report.

3. Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 October 2024

3.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Petitions Report
- b. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement
- c. Member's Item: Winter Fuel Payment Universal Credit and Welfare Reforms Annual Progress Report
- d. Employee Engagement Survey 2024 Results
- e. Work Programme

Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Petitions report - The Committee requested officers review the implementation of double yellow lines in Baron Close.
- b. Attendance of Portfolio Holder - The Committee recommended officers explore the possibility of user testing groups at community hubs.
- c. Universal Credit and Welfare Reforms - Officers to review whether free school meals could be extended to children who are home schooled and are in need.
- d. Employee Engagement Survey – Officers to consider options to include further consultation with unions in future staff surveys.

4. Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 28 November 2024

4.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Petitions Report
- b. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration
- c. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarters 1 and 2 2024/25
- d. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2024/25
- e. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2024/25
- f. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26
- g. Work Programme

4.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26 - The Committee commented on the proposals outlined in the Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2025/26 as set out in the minutes.

5. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 3 December 2024

5.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26
- b. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2024/25
- c. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2024/25

- d. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarters 1 and 2 2024/25
- e. Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2023-24
- f. Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report 2023-2024
- g. Work Programme

5.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. MSCP Annual Report – the Committee requested a briefing note on the prevalence of Virginity Testing and Hymenoplasty in Medway.

6. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 December 2024

6.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Member's Item: Winter Fuel Payment and its impact on health and adult social care
- b. Medway Food Strategy
- c. Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership Delivery Plan Update with an Overview of Development of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams
- d. Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board Community Services Transformation Update
- e. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarters 1 and 2 2024/25
- f. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2024/25
- g. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2024/25
- h. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26
- i. Work programme

6.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Medway Food Strategy - The Committee recommended the strategy to Cabinet for approval.

7. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12 December 2024

7.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Annual Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership including an Update on the Community Safety Plan 2024 to 2027
- b. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement
- c. Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarters 1 and 2 2024/25
- d. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2024/25
- e. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2024/25
- f. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26
- g. Petitions Report
- h. Work Programme

7.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Annual Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership including an Update on the Community Safety Plan 2024 to 2027 - The Committee supported the proposed Community Safety Partnership priorities considering the strategic assessment findings and requested that Female genital mutilation (FGM), hymenoplasty and virginity testing be expressly included within the priorities and education and awareness training if not already. In addition, the Committee requested a 'Breakdown of Crime Types' by ward
- b. Attendance of Portfolio Holder - The Committee requested data to assess the impact of red routes on traffic flow, business efficiency, and safety, and suggested exploring additional areas for red route implementation based on traffic patterns.
- c. Capital Budget Monitoring - The Committee requested a detailed briefing note on highways and green spaces underspends.
- d. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget - The Committee requested a detailed briefing note to be circulated outside of the meeting, with a more detailed breakdown of the highways budget.

8. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 December 2024

8.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Call-in: Safer, Healthier Streets Programme - School Streets Tranche 2

8.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Call-in: The Committee having considered the call in, agreed to accept Cabinet decisions 135/2024 to 144/2024 and therefore take no further action.

9. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 January 2024

9.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Annual Report on School Performance for the Academic Year 2023 to 2024
- b. Oasis Restore Secure School Update
- c. Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Services across Medway
- d. Short Breaks Sufficiency Update
- e. Work programme

9.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Services: The Committee supported the contracting approach described and that NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board continue to provide regular updates to the Committee as the work progresses.
- b. Short Breaks Sufficiency Update: The Committee supported plans to increase availability of inclusive universal services through comprehensive training, workforce development and stakeholder engagement.

10. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 16 January 2024

10.1. Reports due to be considered at Committee:

- a. Attendance of the Deputy Leader of the Council
- b. Adult Social Care Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
- c. Adult Social Care Direct Payments

- d. CQC Assessment and Assurance of Local Authorities
 - e. Care for Medway: Preliminary Options to Build and Operate a Care Home
 - f. Integrated Care Strategy Update
 - g. Kent and Medway Joint NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Terms of Reference
 - h. Work Programme
11. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 21 January 2024

11.1. Reports due to be considered at Committee:

- a. Attendance of Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness
- b. Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets 2025/26
- c. The Regulator of Social Housing - Inspection Outcome
- d. Highway Infrastructure Contract – Annual Review
- e. Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP)
- f. Infrastructure Funding Statement
- g. Petitions Report
- h. Work programme

Contact for further details

Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services
 Telephone: 01634 332509 Email: wayne.hemingway@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

None

Links to minutes

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date
Business Support and Digital	24.10.24
Business Support and Digital	28.11.24
Children and Young People	03.12.24

Health and Adult Social Care	05.12.24
Regeneration, Culture and Environment	12.12.24
Regeneration, Culture and Environment	19.12.24
Children and Young People	09.01.25
Health and Adult Social Care	16.01.25
Regeneration, Culture and Environment	21.01.25