

Council

16 October 2025

Report on Overview and Scrutiny Activity

Report from: Richard Hicks, Chief Executive

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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 July 2025 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. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 August 2025

3.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Medway Youth Justice Plan 2025 - 2026
- b. Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report 2024-2025
- c. Children's Services Annual Fostering Report 2024-2025
- d. Member's Item: Implications of removal of exemption from VAT for Private and Independent Schools in Medway from January 2025
- e. The Proposed Changes to the Education Travel Assistance Policy and Post-16 Transport Policy Statement - Outcome Following Consultation

- f. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26
- g. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26
- h. Work programme

3.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Medway Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 – the Committee recommend Full Council to approve the Plan.
- b. Medway Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 – a briefing note be provided to the Committee on Disproportionality.
- c. Proposed Changes to the Education Travel Assistance Policy and Post-16 Transport Policy Statement – the impact of the change to policy would be monitored and reviewed over the next 12 months and an update report be brought back to the Committee on progress.

4. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 14 August 2025

4.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration
- b. Housing Allocations Policy Review 2025
- c. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26
- d. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26
- e. Petitions Report
- f. Work Programme

4.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration – The Committee requested a briefing note setting out planning enforcement standards, with particular reference to trees.
- b. Housing Allocations Policy Review 2025 – The Committee requested a briefing note providing further information on the band criteria and the residents in band B and band C.
- c. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26 – The Committee requested a briefing note setting out planned works and costs of the Gun Wharf Improvement Works.

- d. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26 – The Committee requested a briefing note to provide additional detail regarding Penalty Charge Notice fines and parking services.

5. Health and Adult Social Care Overview Scrutiny Committee – 20 August 2025

5.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Contract Award for Integrated All Age Mental Health Services in Medway
- b. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26
- c. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26
- d. Prosthetics Limb Service
- e. NHS Kent and Medway ICB Change-25: ICB Transition Programme
- f. Kent and Medway Integrated Work and Health Strategy
- g. Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028
- h. Hospital Discharge - Medway Adult Social Care
- i. Addressing Safeguarding Adults Waiting List Backlogs
- j. Work Programme

5.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Contract Award for Integrated All Age Mental Health Services in Medway – the Committee decided that the proposals did constitute a substantial variation or development in the provision of health services in Medway as it had concerns around engagement not being robust enough and that the service would change during the lifetime of the contract.
- b. Prosthetics Limb Service – The Committee requested that the item be reported to the next meeting, accompanied by a completed Substantial Variation Questionnaire and that an informal briefing be set up with the provider to learn more about the services they provide in relation to prosthetics.
- c. Kent and Medway Integrated Work and Health Strategy – the Committee recommended the Strategy 2025-30 to Cabinet for approval.
- d. Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – The Committee noted the report and recommended it to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval.
- e. Hospital Discharge - Medway Adult Social Care – The Committee noted the report and requested a breakdown of finances between local authority and NHS funding.

6. Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 21 August 2025

6.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Procurement Strategy 2025-2030
- b. Medway 2.0 Update
- c. Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26
- d. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 1 2025/26
- e. Work Programme

6.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Procurement Strategy 2025-2030 – the Committee supported the proposal of annual reporting of the deliverables.
- b. Medway 2.0 Update – The Committee provided comments on the currently prioritised workstreams.

7. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2 October 2025

7.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Taking a System Wide Approach to Health and Early Intervention for Children in Medway
- b. Adoption Partnership South East, Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report 2024/2025
- c. Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025
- d. Early Years
- e. Elective Home Education Focus Group
- f. The One Medway Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 1 2025/26
- g. Work programme

7.2. Key meeting outcomes:

- a. Taking a System Wide Approach to Health and Early Intervention for Children in Medway – The Committee requested that options to offer signposting to services be explored and that an update be provided around the Children's Welfare App.

8. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 October 2025

8.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Petitions Report
- b. Medway Greenspaces Bereavement Memorial Policy
- c. Task Group - Air Quality, Public Transport and Active Travel
- d. Get Kent and Medway Working Plan
- e. One Medway Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 1 2025/26
- f. Work programme

8.2. Key meeting outcomes:

As the agenda for Full Council was published before the above meeting took place it is not possible to include outcomes in this report.

9. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 October 2025

9.1. Reports considered at Committee:

- a. Attendance of the Deputy Leader of the Council
- b. Update on Culture Review and Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) service a Medway NHS Foundation Trust
- c. Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board Community Services Procurement and Engagement Update
- d. Update on Pharmacy Provision in Rainham
- e. Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025
- f. Task Group: Air Quality, Public Transport and Active Travel
- g. The One Medway Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Strategic Risk Summary - Quarter 1 2025/26
- h. Work Programme

9.2. Key meeting outcomes:

As the agenda for Full Council was published before the above meeting took place it is not possible to include outcomes in this report.

Contact for further details

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Appendices

None

Links to minutes

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date
Children and Young People	07.08.25
Regeneration, Culture and Environment	14.08.25
Health and Adult Social Care	20.08.25
Business Support and Digital	21.08.25
Children and Young People	02.10.25
Regeneration, Culture and Environment	09.10.25
Health and Adult Social Care	14.10.25

Background papers

None