

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 SEPTEMBER 2011

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Caroline Salisbury, 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. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 Under Chapter 4 – Rules, paragraph 22.1 (v) General terms of reference, each overview and scrutiny committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme.

2. Background

2.1. Appendix A to this report sets out the existing work programme for the committee.

3. Agenda planning meeting

3.1 Members will be aware that 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 was held on 20 September 2011.

3.2 The Chairman was advised that future dates had been agreed for the reporting of Cabinet's draft revenue and capital budgets 2012/2013. This report would be submitted to the meeting on 13 December 2011 and any comments or recommendations would need to be referred to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 February 2012.

3.3 The Chairman agreed that due to the large number of items on the work programme for the meeting on 13 December, that two reports should be deferred for consideration until 31 January 2012. The

reports should be the Kent Fire and Rescue Service – update and Probation service – prevention of future generations offending.

4. Future work programme

4.1 Cabinet's Forward Plan

There are eight new items that have been added to the Forward Plan within the remit of this committee:

*Recycling bags 4 October 2011
This report will set out proposals for the continued use of disposable recycling sacks

*Young People's Concessionary Travel in Medway 4 October 2011
This report seeks to inform Members of options for Young People's Concessionary Travel in Medway and to obtain Cabinet agreement to proceed with the way forward.

*Gateway 4 Procurement Post Project Completion 1 November 11
Review: Highways Maintenance Term Contract

*Community Infrastructure Levy 29 November 11
This report will set out details of the new levy that local authorities can choose to charge on new developments to support development by funding infrastructure.

*Building Control: Public Protection Role 8 December 11
To report to the Building Control Joint Committee on the latest performance and budget monitoring information.

*Draft South Thames Gateway Building Control 8 December 11
Business Plan 2011/2014

The committee previously requested that, on an annual basis, this information is sent via a Briefing Note prior to decision by Cabinet.

Gateway 3 Procurement Tender Process Review 20 December 11
and Contract Award: Medway Council Highways
and Engineering Works Framework

Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring 20 December 11
Report
The report analyses progress against a number of indicators associated with the adopted development plan and the emerging Local development Framework

** these items will be considered by the Cabinet before the next meeting of this committee on 13 December 2011.*

5. Update on programme of in-depth scrutiny reviews

- 5.1 On 20 September the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed the topics suggested by each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the in depth review work programme and decided how the reviews should be prioritised and timetabled over the next eighteen months. It has been agreed four reviews should be undertaken running successively during this period as follows:
- Effective Challenge to address under performance in Medway Schools (1)
 - Supported Accommodation – with an extended scope to include other support for those in supported accommodation (2)
 - Mental Health (4).
- 5.2 It has been agreed that the third review should be one of the topics put forward by the Regeneration, Community and Culture (RCC) Overview and Scrutiny Committee; either De-cluttering Town Centres or Impact of European Funding. The RCC Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been asked to agree which topic to cover after further discussion and to notify the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee accordingly.
- 5.3 In determining the priority order of in-depth reviews the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee was advised of the outcome of an informal review of the long list of topics involving Overview and Scrutiny Chairmen and Opposition Spokespersons held on 5 September. At that meeting the following comments were made with regard to the topics put forward by this committee.
- 5.4 **De-cluttering Town Centres**– members discussed whether this review could make a difference given current financial constraints and the likelihood that there would be significant costs associated with a programme of de-cluttering town centres. Before including this review or the one on Impact of European Funding in the work programme it was suggested that a view should be sought from the Director of Regeneration Community and Culture on the likelihood of being able to generate recommendations requiring minimal expenditure (for example a set of design principles) or to take any forward recommendations requiring budget provision as a consequence of this review. Members expressed an interest in covering some of the main arterial roads as well as town centres in Medway if this review were to proceed.
- 5.5 **Impact of European funding**– as set out above Members agreed to take a view from the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture before adding this topic to the work programme. It was recommended that the scope of the review should include an assessment of the value of EU funded projects and whether the Council is having success in sustaining the impact of successful projects once the funding ends.

6. Financial and legal implications

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

7. Recommendations

7.1 The committee is asked to:

- (a) consider whether any changes or additions need to be made to the current work programme shown at Appendix A;
- (b) agree the topic for in-depth review (detailed in paragraph 5 of the report) and notify the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the decision.

Background papers. None.

Lead officer contact

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Work Programme
Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Policy framework documents: Community Safety Plan, Local Transport Plan and plans and other strategies which together comprise the Development Plan

Item	Work type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Local Development Framework (LDF) – Core Strategy	Policy development	Brian McCutcheon, Regional and Local Planning Manager	This report will set out details of the LDF Core Strategy (publication version) and request comments from the committee as part of the consultation process.	4 October 2011
Interim Medway Housing Design Standards	Policy development	Frances Madders, Senior Urban Design Officer	To consider the guide produced to advise on the main principles, minimum layout and space standards that will be expected in the design of new housing, prior to decision by Cabinet.	4 October 2011
Lodge Hill Development Brief	Policy development		To consider the proposed Lodge Hill Development Brief	4 October 2011
Members' Item: Pavement resurfacing – water meter replacement	Community issues	Ian Wilson, Head of Capital Projects, Road Safety and Networks	To consider an issue raised by a councillor on pavement resurfacing – water meter replacement	4 October 2011
Council Plan – 2 nd quarter monitoring 2011/2012	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Anna-Marie Lawrence-Lovell, Performance Manager	To consider the Council Plan – 2 nd quarter monitoring 2011/2012	13 December 2011
Review of the waste contracts (to include any known problems in the future, such as the provision and cost of recycling bags)	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Sarah Dagwell, Head of waste services	To review the first year's performance for each of the waste contracts	13 December 2011

Item	Work type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services – in attendance	Holding to account		The Portfolio Holder will be invited to give a presentation on work carried out in his portfolio, in the remit of this committee, and answer any questions	13 December 2011
Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth – in attendance	Holding to account		The Portfolio Holder will be invited to give a presentation on work carried out in his portfolio, in the remit of this committee, and answer any questions	13 December 2011
Proposed draft revenue and capital budget 2012/13	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer	To consider the Cabinet's draft budget proposals for the next financial year and forward comments/ recommendations on to Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 February 2012	13 December 2011
Kent Fire and Rescue Service – update	Service information	Steve Griffiths, Kent Fire and Rescue	Update on what has changed in the provision of services and the improvements achieved.	31 January 2012
Probation service – prevention of future generations offending	Service information	Maurice O'Reilly, Kent Probation	Report on the work undertaken with families to prevent future generations offending.	31 January 2012
Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact – in attendance	Holding to account		The Portfolio Holder will be invited to give a presentation on work carried out in his portfolio, in the remit of this committee, and answer any questions	31 January 2012
Council Plan – 3 rd quarter monitoring 2011/2012	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Anna-Marie Lawrence-Lovell, Performance Manager	To consider the Council Plan – 3 rd quarter monitoring 2011/2012	3 April 2012

Item	Work type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
The Leader, in his role as Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment and Strategic Tourism Promotion and Regeneration – in attendance	Holding to account		The Leader will be invited to give a presentation on work carried out in his role as Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment and Strategic Tourism Promotion and Regeneration, and answer any questions	3 April 2012
End of year performance report 2011/2012	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Anna-Marie Lawrence-Lovell, Performance Manager	To consider the end of year Council Plan monitoring for 2011/2012	Summer 2012
Increase in powers for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)	Service information	Neil Howlett, Community Safety Partnership Manager and Kent Police	This report will detail an increase in powers for PCSOs.	To be confirmed
Using the River Medway to its full potential	Service information	Richard Hicks, Assistant Director, Customer First, Leisure, Culture, Democracy and Governance	This report follows a referral from the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 June 2011	To be confirmed

Future meeting dates:

2011: 4 October; 13 December

2012: 31 January; 3 April

Work completed in 2011/12:

16 June 2011

- End of year performance report 2010/2011
- Petition referral
- Six month update on progress of the recommendations of the PACT review
- Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan
- Annual scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Water Regulations 2009

10 August 2011

- Quarter 1 council Plan monitoring 2011/2012
- Highway Winter Services task group - update
- Attendance of Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010 – preliminary flood risk assessment for Medway