

Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20 August 2026

Work Programme

Report from: Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services

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Summary

This report advises Members of the work programme and allows them to adjust it in the light of latest priorities, issues and circumstances and provides an opportunity to shape and direct the Committee's activities over the year.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. The Committee is asked to agree the provisional work programme at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 1.2. The Committee is asked to note the work programmes of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees at Appendix 2 to the report.

2. Budget and Policy Framework

- 2.1. Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme (Chapter 4 – Rules, paragraph 21.1 (xv) General terms of reference).

3. Background

- 3.1. The Committee's provisional work programme is attached at Appendix 1. One of the Committee's functions is to provide guidance and leadership on the development and co-ordination of the scrutiny function for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Appendix 2 sets out the work programmes for other Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

4. Agenda Planning Meeting

- 4.1. Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. An agenda planning meeting took

place on 30 July 2026 attended by the Chairperson and Opposition Spokesperson.

- 4.2. At the meeting the following amendment to the work programme was proposed:
 - 4.2.1. The Supported Housing Strategy to be added to the agenda for November 2026 for pre-decision scrutiny. The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 introduced a new statutory duty for local authorities to formulate and publish a Local Supported Housing Strategy. The strategies require collaboration across various departments within the Council and with partners to understand the local landscape of supported housing, including supply, unmet need and future demand, and to develop a strategy which sets out the direction of travel to meet identified need.
 - 4.2.2. This strategy will impact on each of the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees due to its breadth, including housing, homelessness, stock, adult social care and vulnerable adults, care leavers and vulnerable families, housing benefit, subsidiary and of course budget implications.
 - 4.2.3. Therefore, rather than take the strategy to all four Committees, it is recommended that the strategy be taken to the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Opposition Spokespersons of the other O&S Committees being invited to attend and participate during the discussion of the item and for all relevant officers, across the breadth of the strategy to be present at the one meeting to enable one meaningful and fully informed scrutiny discussion on this important strategy for the local authority and its residents.
 - 4.2.4. The Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee terms of reference highlight its role to “provide guidance and leadership on the development and co-ordination of the scrutiny function for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees...”. In addition, the membership of the Committee already includes a number of a number of Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons and Opposition Spokespersons of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s. Therefore, it is considered that this Committee, would be the most effective to take the lead in scrutinising this issue. The proposal has been discussed at pre agenda meetings of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and there is agreement to this approach.
 - 4.2.5. It is further proposed that the Committee start at the earlier time of 6pm in November only, to facilitate that discussion.

5. Forward Plan

- 5.1. The latest [Forward Plan](#) of Cabinet decisions was published on 28 July 2026.
- 5.2. The items that are relevant to the Business Support and Digital O&S Committee are set out below so that Members have an opportunity to identify

any further items they wish to consider as pre-decision scrutiny (where dates permit) other than those already programmed.

Title of Decision	Anticipated Decision Date
Medium Term Financial Outlook This report will set out the financial pressures projected by the Council's services alongside projections of the Council's income streams.	25 August
One Medway Council Plan Performance Monitoring and Risk Register Review Quarter 1 2026/27 This report will provide details of performance for Quarter 1 2026/27 against the priorities set out in the One Medway Council Plan and will bring forward the latest risk management review.	25 August
Local Government Reorganisation This report will provide an update following the Government's announcement on 16 July 2026 regarding the future arrangements for local government in Kent and Medway.	25 August
Procurement Strategy Annual Report The report will set provide an update on delivery of the Procurement Strategy 2025 – 2030 and ask the Cabinet to agree annual objectives.	22 September
Capital Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2026/27 This report will set out the latest monitoring position.	17 November
Draft Budget Proposals 2027/2028 This report will provide details of the initial budget proposals for 2027/28 prior to consideration by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.	17 November
One Medway Council Plan Performance Monitoring and Risk Register Review - Quarter 2 2026/27 This report will provide details of performance for Quarter 2 2026/27 against the priorities set out in the One Medway Council Plan and will bring forward the latest risk management review.	17 November
One Medway Financial Improvement and Transformation (FIT) Plan Monitoring - Round 2 2026/27 This report will provide the Cabinet with an update on the development and implementation of the One Medway Financial Improvement and Transformation Plan.	17 November
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 2 2026/27 This report will set out the latest monitoring position.	17 November

6. Improving Scrutiny of Performance Monitoring Task Group

- 6.1. In March 2026, the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved Improving the Scrutiny of Performance Monitoring as the focus of the Task Group. The Committee also delegated authority to the Head of Democratic Services in conjunction with the Chairperson of the Task Group to agree the finalised scope of the Task Group subject to their being no objections from the Committee.

6.2. The Task Group met on 23 June and agreed a scope of work for the Task Group. The agreed scope, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, was circulated to the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment on 21 July, and no issues were raised by Members.

6.3. Work agreed by the Task Group is ongoing, with Member surveys and user testing expected to take place during the summer.

7. The Co-ordinating Role of the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7.1. This Committee has the overall responsibility to provide guidance and leadership on the development and co-ordination of the scrutiny function for all Overview and Scrutiny committees, including guidance on priorities for scrutiny activities (Constitution, Chapter 4 – Rules – paragraph 22.2 (xxiii)).

7.2. To assist the Committee in fulfilling this role, it has been agreed that a regular overview of business discussed by the other Overview and Scrutiny committees should be presented at these meetings. Whilst each Overview and Scrutiny committee is able to determine its own work programme, this Committee may wish to comment on common themes and the balance of business being covered by each Committee.

7.3. Appendix 2 to this report sets out the current work programmes of the other three Overview and Scrutiny committees.

8. Financial, legal and risk management implications

8.1. There are no financial, legal or risk management implications arising from this report.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Business Support and Digital O&S work programme

Appendix 2 - Other O&S Committees' work programmes

Appendix 3 - Agreed Task Group Scope

Background papers:

None