

This report will be made public
on 4 March 2019



Report number

OS/18/03

To: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 12 March 2019
Status: Non-executive decision
Head of Service: Amandeep Khroud, Assistant Director – Governance, Law and Regulatory Services

Subject: Annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2018/19

Summary: This report sets out the work that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have completed during 2018/2019. This involved the identification of items from the pre-decision scrutiny and monitoring financial and performance monitoring information. The committee also developed their relationships with partners and contributed to the preparation of responses to consultations on various local matters for consideration by the Cabinet.

Reason for recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are required to report annually to Council.

Recommendations:

1. To receive and note report OS/18/03.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the work that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have completed during 2018/2019.
- 1.2 During the past year the overview and scrutiny committee has been responsible for the identification of items from the annual scrutiny programme for review and to monitor financial and performance. The scrutiny committee has also developed their relationships with partners and contributed to the preparation of responses to consultation on various local matters.

2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee – terms of reference

- a) To contribute to the development, and review, of the Council's community plan, including the review of performance against targets.
- b) To examine how the Council engages with the community, including reviewing and monitoring the effectiveness of the Council's communication and consultation strategy, and other strategies that have an impact on relationships with the public.
- c) To consider how the Council develops relationships with its partners and review the effectiveness of those partnerships in contributing to the Council's vision and objectives.
- d) To scrutinise the work and decisions of the partnerships that the Council is involved in.
- e) To prepare responses to consultation, for consideration by the executive, on any matter that affects community services in the District, including education and health.
- f) To act as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee and to meet for that purpose at least once a year.
- g) To co-opt members and determine whether they are entitled to vote on any matter, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009. Part 2/16.
- h) To review and scrutinise the executive's decisions, including prior scrutiny of proposed executive decisions, and decisions made by committees and officers.
- i) To contribute to the development of the Budget and other financial strategies, and review the performance of the executive against the Budget and other financial targets.
- j) To contribute to, and review, the development of the Council's corporate management policies, including risk management and

corporate governance policies and strategies, and to review the performance against targets, and review the effectiveness of the policies and strategies over time.

- k) To contribute to, and review, the Council's performance plan and performance management system.
- l) To exercise the right, set out in the 'Call-in' Rules of Procedure, contained in Part 6 and 7 of this Constitution, to call-in for review, and recommend for re-consideration, any decisions made by the executive but not implemented.

3. Reviews/discussions affecting the community

3.1 Various reviews and discussions involving issues affecting the community were presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the year. This enabled the views of scrutiny to be taken into account during any consultation response arrangements.

3.2 The following matters were considered:

- Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy
- Community Safety Partnership Plan
- Prevent (Exempt item)
- Private Sector Housing
- Digital Strategy
- Equality and Diversity Annual Report
- Communication and Engagement Strategy
- Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)
- S106 Monies
- Oportunitas – Progress Report
- Council Tax Empty Homes Premium
- Investment Strategy
- Folkestone Sports Centre Trust grant
- Royal Military Canal Rowing Boats
- Folkestone Coastal Heritage lottery fund
- Local Development Scheme update
- Enforcement Action funding for direct action
- Transformation Shepway
- Bigginswood – Acceptance of Grant

3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee invited representatives from a number of organisations in order to discuss various issues affecting the community.

4. Crime and Disorder

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility of reviewing crime and disorder reports and received an update on the Shepway Community Safety Partnership.

5. Overview and Scrutiny reviews

5.1 In addition to the quarterly budget monitoring and performance reports, the committee considered the following issues:

- Council tax base
- Council tax Reduction Scheme
- Treasury Management and prudential indicators
- Medium term financial strategy
- Updated Medium term financial position
- Fees and charges
- Housing revenue account and capital budget monitoring
- Budget strategy
- General Fund budgets and monitoring reports
- Performance Reports 2018/19
- Performance Management
- Risk Management Policy and Strategy

5.2 In undertaking this work the Committee has passed various resolutions and recommendations to the Cabinet which have influenced the policy development of the Council.

5.3 A number of issues (listed below) could not be covered during the year and subject to the views of the Committee will be incorporated into the programme for 2019-20:

- Play Strategy
- Lifeline Review
- Domestic Bins (provisional item scheduled for 16 April 2019)

6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

6.1 The overview and scrutiny work programme for 2019/20 is in progress. Councillors, officers, town and parish councils and residents have been asked to submit items for consideration for this work programme. A report will be presented separately.

7. Legal / financial and other controls / policy matters

7.1 Legal officer's comments

There are no legal comments.

7.2 Finance officer's comments

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7.3 Diversities and equalities implications

There are no diversity or equality implications arising directly from this report.

8. Contact officers and background documents

- 8.1 Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officers prior to the meeting:

Sue Lewis, Committee Services Officer
Telephone: 01303 853265
E-mail: sue.lewis@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Kate Clark, Committee Services Officer
Telephone: 01303 853267
E-mail: kate.clark@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

- 8.2 The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None