



**DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Despatched: 26.01.15

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**03 February 2015 at 7.00 pm**

**Conference Room, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks**

**AGENDA**

**Membership:**

Chairman: Cllr. London Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Brown

Cllrs. Brookbank, Davison, Mrs. Dawson, Grint, Orridge, Pett, Underwood and Walshe and  
a vacancy

	<b><u>Pages</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>
<b>Apologies for Absence</b>		
1. <b>Minutes</b> To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 November 2014 as a correct record.	(Pages 1 - 6)	
2. <b>Declarations of Interest</b> Any declarations not already registered		
3. <b>Responses of the Cabinet to reports of the Scrutiny Committee</b> (if any)		
4. <b>Actions from the last meeting of the Committee</b>	(Pages 7 - 8)	
5. <b>West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group - Passenger Transport</b>  Ian Ayres, Chief Officer and Accountable Officer of the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group to answer questions		
6. <b>Performance Monitoring</b>	(Pages 9 - 14)	Lee Banks Tel: 01732 227161
7. <b>Questions to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Welfare &amp; Community Safety</b>	(Pages 15 - 16)	Councillor Ms. Lowe
8. <b>Chairman's Annual Report to Council</b>	(Pages 17 - 20)	Councillor London
9. <b>Work Plan</b>	(Pages 21 - 22)	

### **EXEMPT ITEMS**

(At the time of preparing this agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public.)

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, Members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the Agenda are asked to enquire of the appropriate Contact Officer named on a report prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you require a copy of this agenda or any of the reports listed on it in another format please do not hesitate to contact the Democratic Services Team as set out below.

For any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact:

**The Democratic Services Team (01732 227241)**

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2014 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. London (Chairman)

Cllr. Brown (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs. Brookbank, Davison, Grint, Orridge, Pett, Underwood and Walshe

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Brown

Cllrs. Eyre, Hogarth, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Morris and Piper were also present.

22. Minutes

Cllr. Underwood asked that it be clarified under minute 17 that the “Shop safe, stay safe” scheme was run by Gravesham and Dartford Borough Councils for vulnerable people and dementia sufferers to carry key fobs with electronic information about the carrier.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 2 October 2014, subject to the amendments, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

23. Declarations of Interest

No additional declarations of interest were made.

24. Responses of the Cabinet to reports of the Scrutiny Committee

There were none.

25. Actions from the last meeting of the Committee

The completed action from the previous meeting was noted. Cllr. Walshe added that he had sent a follow up email requesting further information on the cost of the Buckhurst 2 car park and Officers confirmed the Chief Finance Officer would respond outside of the meeting.

CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

With the agreement of the Committee, agenda item 6 was brought before agenda item 5.

26. In-depth Scrutiny - Report of the Leisure Working Group

The interim report of the Leisure Working Group was tabled for Members’ consideration and it summarised the research of the working group. The Chairman explained that the Group was still examining the scope of the Council’s leisure assets and the Council’s

expenditure, in order to assess the value for money. He highlighted that the headline figure for the subsidy to Sencio Community Leisure of 8 pence per user related to the sums paid to Sencio. If the Council's own asset maintenance costs on the facilities were included, this figure was 18 pence in 2012/13 and 25 pence for 2013/14. It was not easy to benchmark with other local authorities as they each managed their financial arrangements differently but these were being looked at to enable the Group to undertake clearer benchmarking against other leisure providers. The Group intended to provide a final report to the Committee at its meeting on 3 February 2015,

A Member raised concern that Sencio was not making best use of the assets when they should be making profit. Some Members considered whether, although it was not a statutory service, it was appropriate for the Council to provide leisure services. A concern was also raised that detailed knowledge of the leases with Sencio had fallen since the retirement of the previous Professional Services Manager, however the Chief Officer Communities & Business advised that the Council's Asset Surveyor had been undertaking a complete review of the Council's responsibilities under each of its leases.

#### 27. Kent County Council - Education

The Chairman welcomed Roger Gough, the Kent County Council (KCC) Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to the meeting, who gave a [presentation](#) on school places, school performance, the provision of a grammar school annexe and school transport.

Mr. Gough highlighted that the rise in the birthrate across the County had meant a need to plan ahead in primary school places, with major construction, and this would in turn filter to secondary school places. The pressures in the Sevenoaks District were less severe than in other areas where there was more intensive house building. The County Council was generally within 1% in its predictions of need but it could be difficult to predict population movements. The County Council had been in discussions with Sevenoaks District Council to investigate the role of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in supporting the provision of places as although the Government expected the Basic Need capital grant allocation to cover 80% of need, in practice it covered only 50%. Kent County Council was also lobbying firmly to receive monies through the recent £300 million pot announced by the Government.

The KCC Cabinet Member added that many pupils travelled out of the District, particularly for selective education as there were no selective schools in the District but there was approximately a 40 to 50% pass rate. The traffic corridor between Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells was particularly busy. Although the provision of new grammar schools was prohibited, there were fewer restrictions on the extension of existing schools. The extension of the Weald of Kent Grammar school was still going ahead and was expected to be completed by autumn 2016. Mr. Gough then responded to questions from Members of the Committee.

The Chairman asked whether there was a reason the Young Person's Travel Pass was limited to between 6am to 7pm when this could end before some after school clubs. The KCC Cabinet Member advised that the scheme cost approximately £13 million per year and it was hoped those hours would cover most after school activities.

Mr. Gough confirmed to the Committee that the pass only related to bus travel, not trains. He had tried to include train companies but found they were resistant and cost was also a factor. Some arrangements could be made to pay towards the travel if the school they went to was their closest. In follow-up the Chairman asked whether in the past there had been arrangements with train companies. The KCC Cabinet Member agreed that train travel would be appropriate for many of the pupils travelling from the District and would investigate what past measures there may have been.

A Member asked what prospects there were for a boys' grammar school annexe in Sevenoaks and whether the County Council could end the super selection of grammar school pupils from outside the county. Mr Gough advised that there was not a partner for a boys' grammar school in the same way as for girls although the County Council and Michael Fallon MP were both seeking a change in law to allow new grammar schools. The County Council had tried unsuccessfully to limit super-selection through the Schools Adjudicator four years ago.

Another Member asked whether the CIL would assist in meeting the possible shortfall of school places in Halstead. The KCC Cabinet Member confirmed that he was still having discussions with the Council as the collecting authority. It could form one part of the armoury but in other parts of the County CIL could not be relied on because development would not always be viable.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Gough for attending.

#### 28. Performance Monitoring

Members considered a report which summarised performance across the Council to the end of September 2014. Members were asked to consider eight performance indicators which were performing 10% or more below their target with a commentary from Officers explaining the reasons and detailing any plans to improve performance. If actions taken were not deemed sufficient, the report recommended referring those indicators to Cabinet for further assessment.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

#### 29. Questions to the Portfolio Holder for Local Planning & Environment

The Portfolio Holder for Local Planning & Environment presented a report on the recent successes and challenges ahead within his portfolio. Following an inspection in October 2014 the Council's co-mingled recycling was assessed as creating high quality recyclate, meaning there was no need to introduce separate collections for each material. The Council had been responding to issues raised by the Independent Inspector on the Allocation and Development Management Plan and had been progressing the Gypsy and Travellers Plan. The other challenges were the difficulties in recruiting and retaining planners and that Kent Highways was reviewing its policy on removing commercial flytipping, which could adversely impact the Council's own service for clearances.

The Portfolio Holder responded to a question by the Chairman and confirmed that the planning performance information in the report related to the percentage of applications responded to within the statutory deadlines.

## Agenda Item 1

### Scrutiny Committee - 20 November 2014

*Action: The Chief Planning Officer to confirm to the Committee the total number of planning applications received by the Council in a year.*

A Member raised a concern that some properties were being built and sold at high prices but did not provide Affordable Housing contributions as it had been argued they would be unviable if provided. The Portfolio Holder felt that good Affordable Housing provision was being made at the West Kent Cold Store and could be made at Fort Halstead. Figures provided by developers on viability were assessed by the Council's external consultants, Adams Integra. The contract with this firm would be coming up for renewal soon and would be looked at critically. The Chief Planning Officer and Chief Housing Officer were also investigating whether the Council could develop its in-house expertise. The Portfolio Holder felt that Affordable Housing was a key issue and noted that in the last three years the Council had only achieved 11, 9 and 20% Affordable Housing when the policy was for provision of up to 40% on new developments.

The Portfolio Holder was asked whether there were any steps that could be taken to redress the relative shortage of 2-bed houses in the District. He advised that the Council could influence the private sector, but it had more control over the public sector housing. The Chief Planning Officer added that the Council would consider the Strategic Housing Market Assessment when the Core Strategy was reviewed, and would see how far the policy could be developed while still being found sound by an Inspector.

A Member was concerned that too many planning appeals were being dealt with through written representations when local Members may feel important issues needed to be raised. Although the Portfolio Holder asked that Members let him know of concerns as soon as possible as he had an open door policy, Officers confirmed that the Council was more successful on those appeals carried out through written representations.

Another Member asked what the implications would have been if the Council had needed to perform separate recycling collections for each material. The Deputy Portfolio Holder, who was also present, confirmed there would have been significant capital and staffing costs, possibly in excess of £2 million.

In response to a question, the Chief Planning Officer advised that it would be the planning application decision maker who would make the final determination on whether any Affordable Housing contribution would be acceptable.

#### 30. Questions to the Portfolio Holder for Economic & Community Development

The Portfolio Holder for Economic & Community Development presented a report on the recent actions and successes within his portfolio. He highlighted the Economic Strategy Document which was due to be considered by Cabinet on 11 December 2014. The Council had now consulted with the major rural landowners and it was hoped the document would be the Council's strategic policy by the new year. The strategy had 7 aspects: Inward Investment, Skills and Support, Transport and Infrastructure, Energy and Sustainability, Places for Growth and Improvement, Rural Economy and Tourism. Following departures in staff, the Economic and Property Teams within the Council had been reorganised with a new Head of Development and Property recently appointed, who had a strong background in economic development and who would begin in post in early December 2014. He would welcome a discussion with the Chairman of the Leisure In-depth Scrutiny Working Group once the final report was published.

The Portfolio Holder responded to Members' questions.

A Member asked by whom the Emergency Plan had been considered and whether there were any particular messages he wished to make known to parish and town councils. He responded that the Plan had been considered by the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee. Although town and parish councils had been involved in drafting the Plan he would ensure that it was circulated widely to their staff and Councillors.

Another Member asked what the costs to the Council had been in the application for redeveloping the Buckhurst 2 car park in terms of Officer time. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that this was an ongoing process but should be directed to the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources.

A Member asked the Portfolio Holder whether he had been involved recently in the discussion for the future of Fort Halstead. He advised that he had a meeting since his report had been published. The future of the site was also linked to the future of Biggin Hill, where there were plan for between 1,200 and 3,300 new jobs to be created and it was felt that the commercial development of Fort Halstead could provide some of those high-tech job requirements. He had had a meeting in the past week with the Leader and key stakeholders to take forward interim steps for the development as soon as possible and one commercial firm was particularly keen, whom he was keen to support. The timetable for the final move was currently the end of 2018.

### 31. Work Plan

The Committee noted that the final report of the Leisure In-depth Scrutiny Working Group would now be presented to the Committee at its meeting on 3 February 2015.

The Committee agreed that the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 28 April 2015 be cancelled. It was noted the meeting would have been very close to the election and there would be insufficient time for a further working group to be established and to report.

Following the risk analysis by the Audit Committee and due to the work with EC Harris taking place, it was agreed to postpone the Investment in Property Working Group until there were further developments in the project.

Resolved: That the drafting of the terms of reference for the Investment in Property In-Depth Scrutiny Group be postponed until there were further developments in the project.

The Chairman asked Members to advise him of any further ideas they had for future areas of scrutiny.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 8.56 PM

CHAIRMAN





**ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 20.11.14**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status and last updated</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
ACTION 1	The Chief Planning Officer to confirm to the Committee the total number of planning applications received by the Council in a year. (Minute Item 29)	Planning applications received: 2013/14 - 2098 2014/15 - 1706*  *2014/15 data up to and including 20.01.2015	Richard Morris 01732 227268

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## PERFORMANCE REPORT

### Scrutiny Committee – 3 February 2015

Report of Chief Executive

Status: For Information

Key Decision: No

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**This report supports the Council Promise to provide value for money**

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Peter Fleming

**Contact Officer(s)** Lee Banks (Ext. 7161)

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#### **Recommendation to Scrutiny Committee:**

- (a) Members note the contents of the report; and
  - (b) If Members are dissatisfied by actions being taken to improve performance by either Officers, Advisory Committee or Cabinet, they consider areas of underperformance for scrutiny.
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**Reason for recommendation:** To ensure that areas of under performance within services are considered and reviewed by Members.

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#### **Introduction and Background**

- 1 Scrutiny Committee have requested a regular update at each of their meetings of any performance indicators which are not meeting their target level. Attached to this short introduction paper is an exceptions report with a commentary from officers explaining the reasons why performance is not within 10% of target and detailing any actions the service is planning to take to improve performance levels.

#### **Performance Overview**

- 2 The table on the following page summarises performance levels as at the end of 2014.

## Agenda Item 6

	Current Month	Year To Date
<b>Red</b> <i>10% or more below target</i>	3 (5.5%)	2 (3.6%)
<b>Amber</b> <i>Less than 10% below target</i>	5 (9.1%)	10 (18.2%)
<b>Green</b> <i>At or above target</i>	47 (85.4%)	43 (78.2%)

- 3 Provided as Appendix A to this report are details of the three indicators where performance is 'Red' and missing the target level by 10% or more.

### **Other Options Considered and/or Rejected**

- 4 None.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

- 5 Effective performance management monitoring arrangements will assist the Council in diverting resources to areas or services where it is considered to be a greater priority.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 6 Robust arrangements are in place to ensure that the risk of inaccurate data being reported to Members is minimised and assurance can be placed on the accuracy of data used to assess performance. By reporting to Members and ensuring all Members are able to access the Council's performance management system the risk of poor performance not being identified or addressed is minimised.

#### Equality Impacts

- 7 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users

### **Conclusions**

- 8 This report to Members summarises performance across the Council with data that was available at the end of November and December 2014. Members are asked to consider three performance indicators which are performing 10% or more below their target and if the actions being taken by officers are not deemed sufficient are recommended to refer those indicators to the Cabinet for further assessment.

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Performance Data


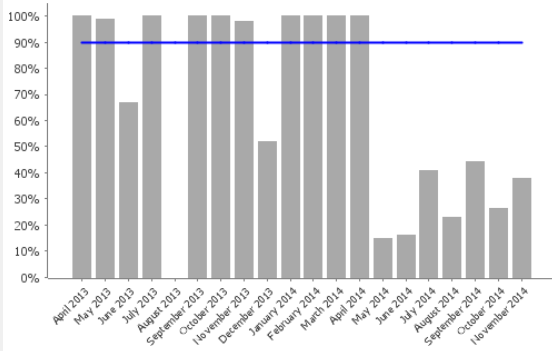


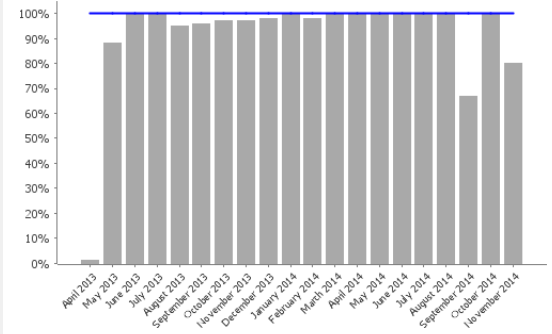

**Background Papers:**


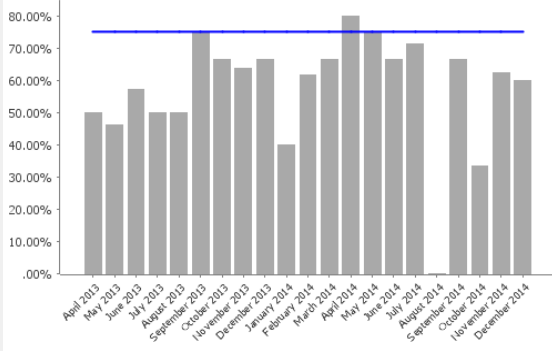

None

**Dr Pav Ramewal  
Chief Executive**

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## Scrutiny Committee – Performance data

Code	Short Name	Current Value	Current Target	Current Status	Performance Chart	Cumulative (Year to Date) Performance			Latest Note
						2014/15			
						Value	Target	Status	
LPI_BC002	The percentage of local land charge searches carried out within 10 working days	37.89%	90%			37.92%	90%		<p>This small team of less than 2 full time equivalent employees has experienced a number of absences from work for ill health over the last few months. Together with a greater emphasis being placed on election duties the resources available to this team has been below normal expected levels. This is at a time when activity is at very high levels with 1,504 land charge searches processed to date this year and income £40k above budget profile.</p> <p>Because of this situation an additional temporary resource has been recruited to the team. This has resulted in the average turn around time for searches improving in December to 9.2 days. The average turn around time for the year to date is 11.2 days.</p>
LPI_EH004	Percentage of higher risk food inspections due that was done (higher risk is categories A & B)	80%	100%			92.86%	100%		<p>For the year to date 26 of the 28 due high risk food inspections have been completed.</p> <p>The two inspections outstanding was due to access difficulties. These inspections are now planned for January.</p> <p>100% target should be achieved in the year.</p>

Code	Short Name	Current Value	Current Target	Current Status	Performance Chart	Cumulative (Year to Date) Performance			Latest Note																																												
						2014/15																																															
						Value	Target	Status																																													
LEDC Page 14	Percentage of appeals against planning application refusal dismissed	60%	75%		 <table border="1"> <caption>Monthly Performance Data (Estimated)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>April 2013</td><td>50.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>May 2013</td><td>45.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>June 2013</td><td>58.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>July 2013</td><td>50.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>August 2013</td><td>50.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>September 2013</td><td>75.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>October 2013</td><td>68.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>November 2013</td><td>65.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>December 2013</td><td>68.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>January 2014</td><td>40.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>February 2014</td><td>62.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>March 2014</td><td>68.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>April 2014</td><td>80.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>May 2014</td><td>75.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>June 2014</td><td>68.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>July 2014</td><td>72.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>August 2014</td><td>68.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>September 2014</td><td>33.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>October 2014</td><td>68.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>November 2014</td><td>62.00%</td></tr> <tr><td>December 2014</td><td>60.00%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Percentage	April 2013	50.00%	May 2013	45.00%	June 2013	58.00%	July 2013	50.00%	August 2013	50.00%	September 2013	75.00%	October 2013	68.00%	November 2013	65.00%	December 2013	68.00%	January 2014	40.00%	February 2014	62.00%	March 2014	68.00%	April 2014	80.00%	May 2014	75.00%	June 2014	68.00%	July 2014	72.00%	August 2014	68.00%	September 2014	33.00%	October 2014	68.00%	November 2014	62.00%	December 2014	60.00%	62.9%	75%		<p>Appeals performance has slipped back in the last few months. Member overturns has been a significant factor with 8 out of 9 decision overturn appeals allowed.</p> <p>For the year to date 62 appeals have been received of which 39 have been dismissed.</p> <p>We continue to monitor decisions for lessons to be learned but there is no obvious trend for particular types of developments to be allowed. Two training sessions on appeals have been held for Development Control Committee Members and additional Officers continue to have regular appeal review sessions.</p> <p>The number of appeal decisions varies significantly from month to month and monthly percentages need to be viewed with care. For example in August there was a 0% success rate but only two decisions.</p>
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## Constantly looking at ways to provide high quality services as cost effectively as possible.

### Housing

#### Successes

- The agreement to secure the affordable homes at Ryewood (West Kent Cold Store) for phases 1 and 2 against the odds.
- Very low (often 0) numbers of people staying in bed and breakfast
- DIYSO 2 and the national recognition SDC has received for the scheme including it being used as a model for some London Boroughs and mentioned in the Lyons Housing report.
- Looking to submit DIYSO and HERO for National awards this year. HERO was mentioned in an Ofsted report for KCC Children centres as excellent practice and will be rolled to more.

#### Challenges

- The changes to national planning guidance on affordable housing will cost the District £2.5 million a year in affordable housing contributions seriously limiting what we can do. House prices are seventeen times higher than the average salary in the District.
- Find new funding streams for HERO and move into HERO plus by working with Landlords in the private sector
- Enable sufficient affordable housing and Housing benefit - welfare reform

### Community Safety

#### Successes

- Consistently low crime rates, good working relationships with our partners.
- Internet safety poster campaign for primary (KS2) children to keep raising awareness.

#### Challenges

- Implementing and getting used to the new Anti Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014.
- New issues such as safe guarding and slavery that need a response from SDC.

### Environmental Health/Licensing

#### Successes

- Licensing Partnership with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells is very resilient, has saved the council a lot of money, and is about to celebrate its fifth birthday.
- SDC manages low cost, high quality environmental health and licensing service
- Environmental Health now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a shared service with Dartford B.C

#### Challenges

- To increase the number of partners into the Licensing partnership (Swale & Tandridge).
- Look to share the CCTV control room with Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling to enhance the service, increase resilience while saving costs

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**Scrutiny Committee Annual Report to Council - 2014/15**

At the start of the municipal year, the makeup of the Scrutiny Committee changed with agreement from Council and moved to a fixed membership as opposed to the pool of members drawn from the Advisory Committees that was in operation for 2013/14. As per the revised constitution:

*“The Scrutiny Committee will comprise a permanent Chairman and Vice Chairman, and 9 other elected Members that follow the political proportionality of the Council. No Members of the Committee may be members of the Cabinet, their deputies or members of any of the Cabinet Advisory Committees.”*

Throughout the course of 2014/15, the Scrutiny Committee has drawn up and followed a work plan which has focussed on some key areas. These are:

- Inviting two Cabinet Portfolio Holders to each meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to discuss particular areas of focus/challenge.
- Inviting a number of external representatives to attend Scrutiny Committee to discuss particular areas of concern.
- Setting up In-Depth Scrutiny working groups as task and finish groups to investigate particular areas in detail, reporting back to the Committee so that recommendations can be agreed and reported to Cabinet.

Based on the above approach, the following is a summary of work carried out during 2014/15 by the Scrutiny Committee.

**Portfolio Holders**

Portfolio Holders were asked to provide an update on recent work and future challenges to the relevant meeting, and were subsequently asked a number of questions by Members of the Committee regarding specific challenges and their approach and views. Portfolio holders attended as follows:

<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Area of Committee Focus</b>
July 2014	Cllr Michelle Lowe Housing and Community Safety	HERO, affordable housing, housing benefit fraud, Universal Credit.
October 2014	Cllr Peter Fleming Strategy and Performance	Switch and Save, partnership working, parking provision, Fort Halstead.
October 2014	Cllr Brian Ramsay Finance and Resources	Budget setting process, financial prospects.
November 2014	Cllr Robert Piper Local Planning and Environment	Affordable housing contributions, planning policy, planning appeals
November 2014	Cllr Roddy Hogarth Economic and Community Development	Emergency planning, parking provision, Fort Halstead
February 2015	Strategy and Performance	TBC

## Agenda Item 8

February 2015	Cllr Michelle Lowe Housing and Community Safety	TBC
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### **External Invitees**

July 2014 – Martin Wells and Angela Newey, Chairman and Manager Sevenoaks and Swanley CAB. Mike Musgrove and Jill Eyre, Director and Manager Edenbridge and Westerham CAB

Mr Wells gave a presentation on the activities of both CABx and answered questions from the Committee regarding future sustainability and plans, funding and the benefits the CABx provide.

October 2014 – Jane Parish, Chief Executive, Sencio. Sarah McDonnell, Marketing Manager, Sencio.

Mrs Parish gave a presentation on the performance and activities of the Leisure trust across its facilities. She then responded to questions from the Committee. These covered a number of areas including value for money and the comparison to private sector providers.

November 2014 – County Councillor Roger Gough, KCC Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform.

Mr Gough gave a presentation on school places, performance, school transport and the provision of a grammar school annex in Sevenoaks District. Mr Gough then answered questions from the Committee.

Mr Gough highlighted that the rise in the birth-rate across the County had meant a need to plan ahead in primary school places, with major construction, and this would in turn filter to secondary school places. The pressures in the Sevenoaks District were less severe than in other areas where there was more intensive house building.

The KCC Cabinet Member added that many pupils travelled out of the District, particularly for selective education as there were no selective schools in the District.

February 2015 – Ian Ayres, Chief Officer, West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group

Mr Ayres was asked to come to the Committee with a view to discussing matters regarding patient transport

### **In-Depth Scrutiny Working Groups**

A number of In-Depth Scrutiny Working Groups have been created to look at specific areas at the request of the Scrutiny Committee, these are as follows:

#### Budget

It was considered whether to set up a working group to look at matters relating to the budget. The Committee felt that the substance of the budget was already looked at by a

number of Committees and at this stage there were no identified deficiencies requiring scrutiny. This area may be revisited in future.

### Leisure

Remit - To benchmark with other authorities and leisure providers the value for money provided by Sencio in the provision of leisure services through the leisure trust. To analyse the amount of subsidy per use of the Council's centres paid by the Council to Sencio – if possible in comparison with other providers as well as over time. To assess customer satisfaction with the service provided.

Outcomes – To report back to Scrutiny Committee after February 2015

### **Lessons Learned**

Scrutiny is not easy being both time-consuming and, at times, counter-intuitive when the Committee is trying to probe colleagues. On the whole the Committee has managed the balance between challenging and advising, with not too many complaints from Cabinet members after they have appeared before the Committee!

In an ideal world the Committee would have the resource available to do the leg-work which currently has to be done by members, particularly when looking at particular issues within working groups. Members have done their best and the move to a permanent membership of the committee has proved successful with members gaining both expertise and confidence, whilst officers have assisted as much as possible, but going forward this will be a limiting factor as to the effectiveness of the working groups.

However overall this has been a year where a number of positive steps have been taken and borne fruit. However if members feel improvements can be made or there are areas which need scrutinising, please contact either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

Councillor James London

Chairman

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**Scrutiny Committee Workplan**

<b>Committee (2014/15)</b>	<b>15 July 2014</b>	<b>2 October 2014</b>	<b>20 November 2014</b>	<b>3 February 2015</b>
<b>External Invitees</b>	Sevenoaks & Swanley CAB Edenbridge & Westerham CAB	Sencio - Jane Parish, Chief Executive	Kent County Council (Secondary Schools) – Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform	West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (Passenger Transport) – Ian Ayres, Chief Officer
<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	Performance Monitoring  Michelle Lowe – Housing, Welfare and Community Safety	Performance Monitoring  Peter Fleming – Leader, Strategy and Performance  Brian Ramsay – Finance and Resources	Performance Monitoring  Roddy Hogarth – Economic and Community Development  Robert Piper – Local Planning and Environment	Performance Monitoring  Michelle Lowe – Housing, Welfare and Community Safety  Chairman’s annual report to Council
<b>Depth Scrutiny</b>	Working Group Leisure - Stages Two/Three <sup>1</sup>	Working Group Leisure - Stages Two/Three <sup>1</sup>	Working Group Leisure - Stages Three/Four <sup>1</sup>	

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<b>Committee (2015/16)</b>	<b>Summer 2015</b>	<b>Autumn 2015</b>	<b>Winter 2015</b>	<b>Winter 2016</b>	<b>Spring 2016</b>
<b>External Invitees</b>	Kent County Council (Primary Schools) – Margaret Crabtree, Deputy Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform				
<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	Performance Monitoring  Portfolio Holder for Economic & Community Development  Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources				
<b>In-Depth Scrutiny</b>	Working Group Leisure - Stage Five <sup>1</sup>				

<sup>1</sup> For detailed information on stages refer to “A Guide to In-Depth Scrutiny”

**Past In-Depth Scrutiny Working Groups**

Parking	Cllrs Clark, Cooke, Edwards-Winser, Eyre, Mrs Purves, Raikes (Chairman)
Budget	Cllrs Abraham, Mrs Bracken (Chairman), Butler, Gaywood, Maskell

**Current In-Depth Scrutiny Working Groups**

Leisure	Cllrs. Gaywood, Grint, Mrs. Morris, and Pett (Chairman)
Investment in Property (on hold)	Cllrs. Brookbank, Davison (Chairman) and Underwood

**Possible future areas for In-Depth Scrutiny**

Highways
Housing – Welfare Reform

**Possible future Councillor Call for Action**

Cllr. Ms. Lowe	Gypsies & Traveller Site Consultation – Shoreham Site
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**Possible External Invitees**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic</b>
KCC Cabinet Member – Community Services	Mike Hill	Libraries
KCC Cabinet Member – Community Services	Mike Hill	Housing