

## **Future Reviews and Report Tracker**

December/January

- Budget Scrutiny Task Group meetings

January

- Report of Budget Scrutiny Task Group on Council's draft 2014/15 budget.

February

- ABC business plan Q3
- Annual review of Community Safety Partnership

### **Joint Transportation Board 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 - Ashford Shared Space Study**

Both JTB and O&S Members were anxious to debate the report from Amey on the Shared Space. Amey have been invited to present their full report and answer Members' questions at the December meeting of the JTB. KCC officers should also be present. This is also an ideal opportunity for O&S Members to be able to put their questions and concerns to KCC officers and representatives from Amey, and would prevent the duplication of information to two different committees.

The report is available and can be emailed to Members.

### **Forward plan**

#### **Items for consideration:-**

The following items have been suggested for the O&S work programme and the committee is invited to decide whether to consider them.

- 1. Report on the Council Play Parks. Number of Parks, Maintenance, Quality, Design, Plans for new ones.**
- 2. Focus 2013 -15, the updated Corporate Plan was considered and approved by cabinet in October 2013.**

This plan sets out the council's 3 priorities of

- Jobs and economic growth
- Quality homes and places to live
- Great value services

under which all other projects sit.

It is suggested that O&S might like to review the progress of the plan by having an update one year after its approval (i.e. October/November 2014)

Chairman's recommendation: to add to the Forward Plan so that O&S are kept informed of the progress/otherwise of the Corporate Plan.

### **3. Traffic flows and transport infrastructure associated with developments in East and South Ashford.**

With several developments planned in East and South Ashford, several Members have expressed concern about the strain this may put on the existing infrastructure. The Highways Agency has been invited to come and explain to Members how traffic modelling works, the modelling they have done on J10A and their conclusions. It is anticipated that this will take place in December. If having heard this presentation Members still had concerns about these, or wider issues, then O&S could request a review.

Chairman's recommendation: To wait until after the presentation from the Highway's Agency to see if Members still had concerns and, if so, to establish specifically what those concerns were and how best to tackle them.

**Items to remove from the tracker** – one item on the tracker was proposed in the expectation of a specific report and some items on the tracker have been there for several years, these items are not likely to progress and, with the committee's agreement, will be removed from the tracker.

#### **1. Street Markets**

The 2011/12 Budget Scrutiny Task Group had understood that a report on street markets was to be presented to Cabinet and it was suggested that O&S might wish to review this.

Updates to do with the Ashford Market will be covered in the Portas Pilot and Town team programme which is ongoing.

Chairman's recommendation – remove from tracker

#### **2. Effectiveness of single O&S committee**

This was put on the tracker in December 2008 – after O&S had been reduced from two committees to one` in May that year.

Since that time O&S has had one call-in (July 2013); and submitted 19 reports making 65 recommendations (of which 60 were supported) to Cabinet.

The O&S agendas are not oversubscribed, some items come forward from management, Cabinet, Members themselves and some are on a yearly/other period of review.

For information :-

- of the recommendations not supported 2 (April 2009) were to do with abolishing the State of the Borough debate – this was not agreed but the SOBD held in Nov 2009 was the last. The other 3 were to do with the 2012 events and programmes – O&S' comments were noted and the committee's recommendations arising from a further report were supported.

- Across the county the number of O&S committees and frequency of meetings varies considerably from one O&S committee meeting 3 times a year to four O&S committees meeting monthly.

Chairman's recommendation – remove from tracker

### **3. Cultural strategy**

This was suggested in 2008.

The following is an update from Cultural Services on the current position:-

Members will know that the 2007 to 2011 Strategy aimed to ensure that local residents and visitors can contribute to, enjoy and benefit from Ashford's culture. It acknowledged that "participation in cultural activities can empower individuals and communities, promote social inclusion, raise self-esteem and confidence, and widen horizons". These outcomes are all very relevant and were reinforced in the *Five Year Business Plan (2011 to 2015)*.

The Cultural Strategy's overarching aim is "to place culture at the heart" of Council local policy. Focus 2013-15 (the updated Corporate Plan – approved by Cabinet on 10 October 2013) recognises that the arts and leisure/sports play a central role in enhancing the quality of people's lives and contributing to civic pride and the local economy. This new document stresses the need to establish stronger links and utilise investment effectively, something that the Strategy also highlights in order to develop quality participation and opportunity. This demonstrates that the Cultural Strategy is still embedded which was its *raison d'être* at the time of creation and perhaps more importantly its delivery principles are still 'we wills' for the Council i.e. prioritise on need, quality, accessibility and best value; work in partnership; consult and engage in the delivery and management of services and facilities; support voluntary sector; and embed culture in local planning processes.

With reference to local planning processes, the Cultural Strategy helped to inform the Core Strategy and Local Plan. Members will be aware that these are being updated and we will be working closely with our planning colleagues and key partners over the next couple of months on what's needed, where and when. This work coincides with updating our project plans and we will be consulting with our Portfolio Holders on this. We have a new tourism portfolio holder and together we are reviewing this area to feed into our updated Cultural Strategy delivery plan. Such a plan should emerge in tandem with the Local Plan.

Chairman's recommendation – remove from tracker

Year Plan 2013/14

Month	items	Task Group
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O&amp;S annual report.</li> <li>• ABC Business Plan quarterly performance report.</li> </ul>	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sickness &amp; Absenteeism annual report.</li> <li>• Communication and Consultation Strategy re Planning Policy</li> </ul>	
July		
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Best Service Resources allow activity</li> <li>• Membership of Budget Scrutiny Task Group</li> </ul>	
September		
October		
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABC Business Plan quarterly performance report Q1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Review of 'Invest to save' Civic Centre lighting project</li> <li>• Update on Conningbrook project</li> </ul>	
December	<b>Scrutiny of Council's draft 2014/15 budget</b>	<b>Budget Scrutiny TG meetings:- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013.</b>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report of Budget Scrutiny Task Group</li> </ul>	<b>Budget Scrutiny TG meetings:- 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014</b>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABC Business Plan quarterly performance report.</li> <li>• Annual review of Community Safety Partnership</li> </ul>	
March		
April		

## O&S Committee – Report Tracker – Current position

Minute No.	Report Title	Officer	Date due	Current position	Recommended action
299/10/06	Stour Centre	Head of Cultural & Project Services	TBC – after completion of claim work	Work ongoing	Await completion of claim work.
62/06/11	Housing Strategy Action Plan Monitoring Report	Head of Housing /Housing Strategy Officer	July 2014	Housing Framework 2013 -18 and Homelessness Strategy 2013 –18 adopted July 2013. Monitoring will recommence One year after adoption of new Strategy.	Timetable for one year after adoption of new Strategy.
432/03/11	Annual Review of Homelessness Strategy	Head of Housing	July 2014	The Homelessness Strategy to be included in the Housing Strategy in future.	
51/06/13	Sickness and Absenteeism – annual report	Head of Personnel & development	June 2014		Timetable for June each year.
13/05/13	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	Senior Scrutiny Officer	May/June 2014		Timetable for May/June each year
142/09/12	3 year review of Mayoralty		Sept 2015		
312/01/12	Street Markets	TBA			
431/04/12	ABC Business Plan performance report – 2013/14	Policy & Performance Officer	May/Sept/ Nov/Feb		

62/06/12	Sports & Leisure		TBA		
398/03/13	Refurbishment of the Stour Centre	TBA	TBA	Final Report from Task Group to be presented to O&S	
418/04/13	Community Safety Partnership – annual update	Community Safety Service Manager	April 2014		
11/05/13	Review of 'Invest to save' Civic Centre lighting project	Housing ICT development Manager	Oct 2013	Deferred to Nov meeting	
53/06/13	KCC Shared Space Contract	TBA	After final report from AMEY	Full report going to JTB 10.12.13	
53/06/13	Conningbrook project	Sports Projects Manager & Active Ashford Coordinator	November 2013		
53/06/13	Fly posting & graffiti	TBA	TBA		

Low Priority & other proposed reports

	Report Title	Officer	Date due	Current position	Recommended action
57/06/08 199/10/11 115/08/13	Recycling and the Blue box scheme	Street Scene and Open Spaces Manager	July/ August 2014	New contract commenced July 2013.	
135/08/08	Cultural strategy.	Head of Cultural & Project Services			
291/12/08	The effectiveness of a single O&S committee				