



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Notice of a Meeting, to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane,
Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL on Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at 7.00pm.

The Proposed Members of this Committee are:-

Cllrs. Bartlett, Burgess, Chilton, Feacey, Hicks, A. Howard, Krause, Link, Miss Martin, Mrs. Martin, Smith, Mrs Webb.

Agenda

- | | Page
Nos. |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Apologies/Substitutes – To receive Notification of Substitutes in accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2(iii) | |
| 2. Declarations of Interest:- To declare any interests which fall under the following categories, as explained on the attached document: | (i) |
| a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) | |
| b) Other Significant Interests (OSI) | |
| c) Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests | |
| See Agenda Item 2 for further details | |
| 3. Minutes – to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 25 th April 2017 | |

Part I – Matters Referred to the Committee in Relation to Call-In of a Decision made by the Cabinet

None for this meeting

Part II – Responses of the Cabinet to Reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

None for this Meeting

Part III – Ordinary Decision Items

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 4. Annual Report 2017/18 | 1 – 8 |
| 5. Infrastructure Report | 9 - 14 |

Part IV – Information/Monitoring Items

6. Future Reviews and Report Tracker and Topic Selection Flowchart 15 - 18

Declarations of Interest (see also “Advice to Members” below)

- (a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)** under the Localism Act 2011, relating to items on this agenda. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.

A Member who declares a DPI in relation to any item will need to leave the meeting for that item (unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted).

- (b) **Other Significant Interests (OSI)** under the Kent Code of Conduct as adopted by the Council on 19 July 2012, relating to items on this agenda. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.

A Member who declares an OSI in relation to any item will need to leave the meeting before the debate and vote on that item (unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted). However, prior to leaving, the Member may address the Committee in the same way that a member of the public may do so.

- (c) **Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests** not required to be disclosed under (a) and (b), i.e. announcements made for transparency reasons alone, such as:

- Membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items, or
- Where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person, or
- Where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position.

[Note: an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc; OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc, would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI].

Advice to Members on Declarations of Interest:

- (a) Government Guidance on DPI is available in DCLG’s Guide for Councillors, at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/240134/Openness_and_transparency_on_personal_interests.pdf
- (b) The Kent Code of Conduct was adopted by the Full Council on 19 July 2012, with revisions adopted on 17.10.13, and a copy can be found in the Constitution at <http://www.ashford.gov.uk/part-5---codes-and-protocols>
- (c) If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or OSI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Corporate Director (Law and Governance) and Monitoring Officer or from other Solicitors in Legal and Democratic Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **25th April 2017**.

Present:

Cllr. Chilton (Chairman)

Cllrs. Burgess, Heyes, Hicks, Krause, Link, Michael.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Cllr. Heyes attended as Substitute Member for Cllr. Feacey.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Aaby, Feacey, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin.

Also Present:

Cllr. Smith.

Policy & Performance Manager, Senior Policy, Performance & Scrutiny Officer, Member Services Officer.

389 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 28th March 2017 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

390 Programme Setting for 2017/2018

The Chairman introduced this item and thanked Members for putting forward suggestions since the last meeting, of topics for Scrutiny to work on. The Committee then discussed which specific areas they would like to investigate and the following questions/comments were made:

- Members agreed that Air Quality was a priority subject, particularly since UK air pollution had been linked to increasing numbers of early deaths each year. The report suggested that a Task and Finish Group be assembled to help formulate an Air Quality Strategy for the Borough for pre-scrutiny by the Committee and submission to the Cabinet. It was hoped that Officers would provide an update on the strategy at the next O&S meeting, where the makeup of the Task Group could also be discussed in more detail. A Member suggested that the current research findings should be examined more frequently, since an annual observation would present an incomplete picture. A point was also raised as to whether Air Quality would overlap

Infrastructure and if the two topics should be looked at collectively. Members agreed that the subjects were inter-connected, but that scrutinising them together might result in loss of visibility and impact in each area.

- The Committee discussed Infrastructure and agreed that the primary areas for scrutiny would be roads and major transport policies. With the development of Chimington Green and expansion of the A28 road, it was imperative that capacity, or rather lack of, be explored in order to assess how the Borough would cope with the inevitable extra congestion caused by infrastructure improvements. Parking capacity, particularly in the town centre, was also considered by the Committee to be a worthwhile subject to scrutinise. A comment was made that the information provided by partners overseeing infrastructure improvements was often inaccurate or unavailable, and this was unsatisfactory. Members agreed that the concept of 'future-proofing' and co-ordination between organisations and providers was essential to ensure project management was sufficient. A suggestion was made that Ashford would benefit from an outer ring road that would help to reduce the number of vehicles passing through the town centre.
- In relation to The Wellbeing Agenda for Ashford, several Members advised that it was important for the Committee not to duplicate any work that the Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AH&WBB) undertook. The Chairman agreed that it would be beneficial for him to meet informally with the Chairman of the AH&WBB.
- The Committee discussed Youth Engagement and the shift away from youth centres towards outreach workers visiting hotspots in the borough to engage with young people. It was noted that there had been significant cuts to budgets for youth work across Kent and this often resulted in a high turnover of volunteers in the field. The Chairman suggested continuing the discussion at the next meeting when some absent Members concerned about this topic would be present.
- The topic of rented accommodation conditions was put forward for discussion, specifically poor living standards of accommodation and the number of tenants increasingly struggling to pay high rents. Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) were growing across the borough and properties that were previously family homes were increasingly being converted into HMOs, the implications of which included anti-social behaviour and parking issues. A Member made a suggestion that planning conditions be put on new developments to tackle this, in both urban and rural areas. The Senior Policy, Performance & Scrutiny Officer advised that this topic could be added to the work plan and he would liaise with officers to arrange for them to present something to the Committee.
- The Policy & Performance Manager had received notification from an Officer Group meeting that some funding had become available to be used to source renewable energy and they had asked if the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be interested in researching how the funding could be used. An energy efficiency report had been drafted by the Policy, Performance & Scrutiny Officer and would be submitted to Cabinet in May,

after which the Committee would be in a better position to review what could be taken forward. Members discussed the possibility of joining this topic with Air Quality and the Senior Policy, Performance & Scrutiny Officer would draft some ideas for the next O&S meeting.

Resolved:

That the Work Programme report be received and noted, and that the three thematic areas be endorsed.

391 Future Reviews and Report Tracker and Topic Selection Flowchart

A Member suggested that cycle paths, in particular signage along the paths, be added to the Tracker since it had been brought to one Member's attention that the signage was confusing for both cyclists and pedestrians and a few incidents had occurred. The Senior Policy, Performance & Scrutiny Officer noted this, and would return to the committee with further details.

Resolved:

That the Report Tracker be received and noted.

Queries concerning these Minutes? Please contact Clare Ricketts:
Telephone: 01233 330491 Email: clare.ricketts@ashford.gov.uk
Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available on: www.ashford.gov.uk/committees



Ashford Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny 2016/17 Annual Report

And

2017/18 Work Programme

Foreword from the Chairman

The previous 12 months has seen the Overview and Scrutiny Committee effectively develop its responsibilities as one of the most important committees at Ashford Borough Council. Through agreeing a thematic work programme for the coming year Members have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to positively improve the work of the Committee, building on the success of the past year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee already makes a substantive and positive contribution to the work of the Council and through refocusing our work programming we aim to develop the Committee's role in the Council and deliver improvements for residents in terms of both the services provided by the Council and external organisations.

In the past year the Committee has examined a wide range of subjects and has made meaningful, action based recommendations to Cabinet. I would like to offer the Committee's thanks to the Officers and Members who have attended sessions to give their insight in support of our work. I would further like to thank my Committee colleagues for their enthusiasm and attention to detail in scrutinising the information brought before them, and I look forward to the year ahead.

We need to ensure that the Committee undertakes meaningful work that leads to recommendations and outcomes that add value to the work of the Council and improve the quality of life for residents in our Borough and improve the experience visitors to Ashford enjoy.

The Committee welcomes any input from residents and members, whether in suggesting topics for scrutiny or providing contributions to inform scrutiny reviews. Information on how to get involved in the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is contained in this report.

Cllr Brendan Chilton
Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny at Ashford

The Local Government Act 2000 (the Act) introduced a requirement that Councils with a 'Leader and Executive' arrangement must include the provision of one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees within their Council structure.

Under section 21 of the Act, the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has power to submit reports and make recommendations to the Cabinet or full Council on any aspect of Council business or any matter affecting the Borough or its residents.

The constitution of Ashford Borough Council contains provisions for a single Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out the functions detailed in the Act, although the Committee may assemble task groups from its membership for specific reviews.

In the 2016/17 municipal year the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had 12 members, appointed in line with the broad political balance of the Council. The roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee were appointed to opposition members, although the Committee operates apolitically in its discussions, with all members of the Committee working together to ensure that the Council and its services are acting effectively and efficiently.

Issues Scrutinised by the Committee

Since June 2016 the Committee has considered a number of items related to the Council's operations and wider issues affecting the Borough and its populations, including:

- Quarterly updates on the Council's performance against its corporate objectives
- Sickness absence figures for 2015/16
- The Council's Housing Framework
- Implementation of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012
- Presentations from Southern Water
- Anti-Social Behaviour in the Borough
- Infrastructure planning related to the draft Local Plan to 2030
- Education provision in the Borough (presentation from the County Council's Area Education Officer)
- Ways to increase the profile of the Committee's work

The Committee considers a number of important standing items per year. These items are:

1. Scrutiny of the Council's Budget, carried out by a Committee Task Group

2. The annual report of the Ashford Community Safety Partnership

3. The Council's annual report on Safeguarding Adults and Children at Risk

Budget Scrutiny Task Group

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a duty to scrutinise the Council's draft Capital and Revenue budget. The Committee assembled a task group whose remit included ensuring that the draft 2017/18 budget was achievable and delivered in line with the Council's 5 year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the Council's adopted corporate priorities.

The task group held sessions covering all budgetary areas and Council services and were grateful for the attendance and contributions of Portfolio Holders, Directors, Heads of Service and the Council's Accountancy team.

Heads of Service presented their department service plans for the coming municipal year alongside up to date risk information; and on the basis of these reports and the budget documents the task group made seven recommendations which the main Committee supported and relayed to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet supported the recommendations, which were that that it:

- (i) Be advised that the O&S Committee regards the Council's draft 2017/18 budget as legal and achievable.
- (ii) Endorse the Service Plans and Risk Registers for each service.
- (iii) Request that services include staff resource as a separate and individual risk within the Risk Register for each service.
- (iv) Enhance the consideration of staffing within the strategic Risk Register.
- (v) Require the Project Initiation Document (PID) process to be a compulsory first step for determining the viability of all Council projects.
- (vi) Consider that an overview of progress made in delivering the Council's project programme be added as a regular item to the Cabinet and O&S Committee agendas.
- (vii) Give greater consideration to cross-service and strategic interdependencies and the

maintenance of an authority-wide skills register to build resilience and reduce dependence on external consultancy.

- (viii) Seek to continue the existing apprenticeship schemes in place across the Council and extend these where possible.

Through the continued use of the tracker, presented to the Committee each month, Members will ensure that these recommendations are carried out during the 2017/18 year.

Annual Report of the Community Safety Partnership

At least once a year the O&S Committee operates as the designated Committee responsible for Crime and Disorder issues (as required under the Police and Justice Act 2006). In line with this designation the Community Safety Partnership for Ashford present an annual report on their work within the Borough and set out their priorities for the coming year.

In February 2017 The Committee received a presentation on the Community Safety Partnership's work from the Borough Council's Head of Health, Parking and Community Safety; Portfolio Holder for Highways, Wellbeing and Safety and Health, Parking and Community Safety Manager; along with Detective Inspector Andrew Bidmead of Kent Police and Elizabeth Tweed, Chair or the Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum.

The update outlined positive developments with regard to pursuit of the Partnership's objectives, including:

- Ashford Borough Council's Cabinet agreeing the permanent funding of the One Stop Shop and

Freedom Programme Co-ordinator post to continue the partnership's excellent work in tackling domestic abuse.

- The total number of people killed or seriously injured on roads in Ashford falling by 17% from 2014 to 2015.
- Support programmes run for victims of domestic abuse are well attended, and the Ashford One Stop Shop is well attended.
- Significant work has been undertaken in schools and across other sectors to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation.
- The reported number of anti-social behaviour incidents in the Borough remaining the lowest in the County.

The Community Safety Partnership representatives also outlined the priorities for the coming year, which the Committee endorsed. These are:

- Road safety
- Safeguarding
 - Child sexual exploitation
 - Human trafficking
 - Modern slavery
- Domestic abuse and sexual offences
- Organised crime
 - Drugs
 - Gangs
 - Serious acquisitive crime
 - Digital crime
- Prevent

Safeguarding Adults and Children at Risk

In 2015 the audit partnership recorded the Council's safeguarding activities, procedures and policies as "weak". Following on from this assessment, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to improve and update the Council's approach to safeguarding,

resulting in a subsequent audit review in 2016 recording the Council's safeguarding as "sound".

As a recommendation of the initial audit, a requirement for reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny was made, and in March 2017 the Committee received a presentation from the Council's Designated Safeguarding Officer, Safeguarding Champion and Portfolio Holder for Highways, Wellbeing and Safety. This presentation outlined the work undertaken in the 15 months following the "weak" audit.

The Committee were pleased to note that the most recent bi-annual audit on safeguarding (required under section 11 of the Children Act 2004) showed that the Council was at 100% compliance. In discussing the report the Committee commended the progress made so far and made three recommendations which Cabinet agreed. These were:

- (i) That safeguarding training form part of the induction training package for new Councillors.
- (ii) That level 2 safeguarding training sessions are made available for Borough Councillors.
- (iii) That consideration be given to making safeguarding training available to Parish Councillors.

In order to maintain focus in this crucial area of the Council's work, a similar report is now an annual item in the Committee's forward plan.

2017/18 work programme

In suggesting topics to form a work programme for 2017/18, the Committee agreed three themes for its work going forward. These are:

1. **Air Quality** – to be the subject of a specific task group review
2. **The Wellbeing Agenda for Ashford**
3. **Futureproofing the Borough**

A draft timetable for the year's meetings is included below. This gives an indication of how the work programme can be incorporated alongside the Committee's standing item reports and other requirements.

Getting involved in Overview and Scrutiny

You can get involved in the Committee's work by:

- Making a suggestion for scrutiny
- Coming to a Committee meeting to hear the debate
- Putting forward your views as part of a scrutiny review

For more information about how to get involved you can email the scrutiny team at:

overviewandscrutiny@ashford.gov.uk

or go to:

www.ashford.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny.

Month	Standing Agenda Items	2017/18 Work Programme
June	Q4 Performance report	Air Quality - <i>Task Group meetings</i>
July	Housing Framework Annual Report	Air Quality - <i>Task Group meetings</i>
August		Air Quality - Task Group report back
September	Q1 Performance report	Wellbeing - AHWB updates/Priority Health Issues (overview)
October		Wellbeing - Rented Accommodation conditions (overview)
November	Q2 Performance report	Wellbeing - Youth engagement (overview)
December	<i>Budget Scrutiny Task Group meetings</i>	Wellbeing - Review meeting
January	Report of Budget Scrutiny Task Group	Wellbeing - Review report back
February	Community Safety Partnership update Q3 Performance report	Futureproofing - Infrastructure provision (overview)
March	Safeguarding Adults and Children at Risk	Futureproofing - Major Transport projects (overview)
April		Futureproofing - Review meeting
May	O&S Annual Report O&S Programme Setting	Futureproofing - Review report back

'Future Proofing the Borough' – Reflections on the Committee's recent findings on Infrastructure

To: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 23rd May 2017**

By: **Senior Policy, Performance and Scrutiny Officer**

Summary: **As part of the agreed revisions to its procedures, the Committee previously resolved to adopt an annual work programme for Overview and Scrutiny.**

Background

1. At the previous meeting of the Committee, members discussed agreeing proposed themes for the forthcoming year in order to lay out Overview and Scrutiny's 2017/18 workplan.
2. Alongside Air Quality and Wellbeing, the committee agreed that Infrastructure - covering 'future-proofing' in a wide range of issues and plans for the borough's growth and development – was a theme worthy of underpinning significant focus by members during the forthcoming year.
3. Whilst the committee noted that a strong sense remains that infrastructure and utility provision is a key barrier to sustainable growth, it acknowledged that a lot of work had already been conducted into looking into this area, - most notably in the plans of key partners to deliver. Indeed, a number of updates and briefings have been received by the committee since January 2016.
4. In addition, the Scrutiny and Overview Officer has attended a number of meetings of the KCC Utilities Engagement Sub-Committee meetings, which have shed further light on the topic – learning which has been incorporated into this report.
5. Accordingly, it was agreed that as part of further discussions on infrastructure this report would set out the context offered by these previous scrutiny sessions. In summarising what the committee has learnt so far, this will help members further clarify and refine the work still to be done in the year ahead.

Water – *South East Water, Southern Water, private sewers and watercourses*

6. The Committee heard both from a number of external partners responsible for different elements of the borough's domestic water infrastructure, and those officers overseeing the council's complementary efforts in maintaining water channels and flood prevention.
7. South East Water (the water supplier) and Southern Water (with responsibility for waste water) attended the committee in January 2016. From South East Water, members learnt that –

- a. The Environment Agency has designated the South East of England as being seriously 'water stressed'.
 - b. South East Water work in accordance with a *Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040*, but are preparing a further plan to cover the period 2020-2045.
 - c. Proposals for six new pipelines to supply the South East area by a collective group of water suppliers formed part of South East Water's National Long Term Plan, and that the Water Services Regulation Authority ensured that the agreement was mirrored in all sets of company plans and these were published. These would then be statutory plans.
 - d. South East Water was planning on building a new storage reservoir near Canterbury at Broad Oak, which would supply an extra 13.5 million litres per day by 2033.
 - e. Plans to install water meters were mandatory and it is expected that 90% of homes would be metered by 2020.
 - f. South East Water is working alongside East Malling Research to investigate different methods of irrigation control.
8. Questioning of Southern Water covered areas including their Business Plan and supply area, flood management and drainage and their role in planning and development, and revealed that –
- a. Southern Water obtained funding via a price setting mechanism and this was overseen by OFWAT. Water supply for new local infrastructure should in principle be funded by the Developer, though more often negotiations took place between the Developer, the Local Authority and Southern Water to understand exactly what was needed. Southern Water took future income from new properties into account, but if there was a projected deficit then the Developer would be expected to cover the shortfall.
 - b. Despite this, better relationships were needed between sewerage management and developers on forward planning as there were still disputes arising where relevant infrastructure for sewerage was not organised in advance.
 - c. If planning approval is given without drainage conditions, Southern Water cannot subsequently refuse a connection on the grounds of inadequate capacity.
 - d. In the case of flooding, most stations have a standby pump or were alarmed, which provided some degree of resilience.
 - e. In terms of mapping the position of pipes, the company's crews use what they called 'the Red Line System' to enter data whilst in the field.
 - f. The sewage plant in Kennington is currently operating with spare capacity.
 - g. An operational team (committed to growth forecasting) is in place at Southern Water.
9. The committee followed this session up with a discussion in October 2016 on specific concerns around the adoption of private sewers and pumping stations, in line with a deadline for the transfer of these to Southern Water. A

representative again attended, and advised that of the six pumping stations owned by Ashford Borough Council, two sites had been accepted for transfer, two rejected and another two awaiting confirmation. These sites would be transferred out of the council's ownership if they had not been adopted prior to the deadline.

10. The committee heard details of the transfer and adoption process, and the exemptions within that. The committee was also provided with a list of council sites, and those exempt from transfer. **The committee was satisfied with the process as considered, and agreed that no further information or clarification was required.**
11. In April 2016 the committee scrutinised an ongoing project to review and revise (as necessary) the maintenance of ditches and waterways across the borough, which aim to ensure the free-flow of water and minimise flood risks. Members heard that the current weekly inspections would be revised to fortnightly or monthly inspections, supplemented by a more detailed annual inspection. Site visits with ward members had also been undertaken.
12. During the 2016 review most sites were found to have issues with partial silting up of the waterways, whilst some sites would also benefit from improvements to their grills and access points. The committee heard that remedial work would be undertaken over the next 12 months, with the ongoing responsibility for cleaning and maintenance transferring to the council's in-house ASPIRE team.
13. At the end of the meeting's discussions, "***the Chairman explained that the committee had now completed its review on water supply and disposal***", notwithstanding the follow-up noted in paragraphs 9 and 10.

Education

14. At the January 2017 Overview and Scrutiny, members received a presentation by the KCC Area Education Officer for South Kent. The presentation provided details of the provision and resourcing for education in the borough.
15. *Early Years* –
 - a. This is provided over almost 200 settings, including after/before school clubs, child minders and nurseries. 96% are rated OFSTED good or better.
 - b. All three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours free education per week. From September 2017 this increases to 30 hours per week for working parents.

16. Primary Education –

- a. Of Ashford's 43 Primary Schools, 4 are Outstanding, 36 are Good and 3 have no judgement. No Primary schools are rated to require Improvement or are inadequate.
- b. The committee heard that *'increased capacity has kept pace with demand, but some year groups remain very tight'* -

Forecast Year R-6 Places

Forecast surplus/deficit of places in no action is taken

Planning Group	2015-16 capacity	2015-16 (A)	2016-17 (F)	2017-18 (F)	2018-19 (F)	2019-20 (F)	2020-21 (F)	2020-21 capacity
Ashford Central	1,380	7	16	29	13	-9	-27	1,530
Ashford North	1,440	45	40	27	47	48	60	1,470
Ashford South	2,520	86	113	75	85	90	105	2,520
Ashford South East	1,260	99	23	4	4	-5	-11	1,470
Willesborough	1,260	36	60	40	56	57	61	1,290
Ashford Rural East	535	28	41	34	50	59	71	560
Ashford Rural West	700	63	65	67	87	94	101	715
Charing and Challock	335	44	38	34	31	23	19	350
Chilham	105	7	7	7	4	-1	-4	105
Biddenden	140	4	-2	-1	3	1	7	140
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	461	5	43	35	31	21	18	497
Tenterden	873	109	116	119	117	122	129	873
Ashford	11,009	533	559	470	528	501	528	11,520

- c. Since 2010, KCC have –
 - i. Opened two new Primary Schools - Repton Manor (2FE) and Goat Lees (1FE), adding 630 places
 - ii. Opened Finberry Primary School offsite prior to the occupation of the new building in September 2017 (1FE) adding 210 places
 - iii. Expanded 4 schools- Aldington, Challock, Furley Park, John Wesley adding 560 places
 - iv. In total 1477 permanent places and 150 temporary places have been added since 2010

17. Secondary Education –

- a. Ashford has one 'Maintained' school and six Academies.
- b. Five of the seven schools are OFSTED rated good or better.

District	2015-16 capacity	2015-16 (A)	2016-17 (F)	2017-18 (F)	2018-19 (F)	2019-20 (F)	2020-21 (F)	2021-22 (F)	2022-23 (F)	2022-23 capacity
Year 7	1,538	220	173	172	60	-31	-64	-11	-19	1,481
Years 7-11	7,270	804	878	959	845	614	329	146	-44	7,405

NB: Year 7 and 7-11 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if no Further Action is Taken

18. Wye School has also opened, adding 450 secondary places.

19. The committee also heard details of KCC's commissioning plan to 2021, which seeks to keep up with demand by increasing the capacity of Ashford's schools –

2017/21 Commissioning Plan

Primary Provision

Planning Group	2019–20	2020-21 to 2022-23
Ashford South East		1FE expansion of Finberry
Ashford South	1FE (of 2FE) at Chilmington Green	1FE at Chilmington Green
Willesborough	1 FE of 2FE in Willesborough	
Charing and Challock	0.3FE expansion of Charing CEPS	

Secondary Provision

by 2019-20	2020–21 to 2022-23
60 Year 7 Places	2020-21 - 90 Year 7 places 2021-22 - 60 Year 7 places 2022 - 4FE (of 8FE) school in Chilmington Green

20. Members asked how special provision in new schools would be provided, and were informed that this would take the form of a satellite facility or fixed accommodation.
21. In summarising, KCC confirmed that despite changes in funding, they were confident the small projected shortfalls in provision would be met, in part by the new FE college in central Ashford – for which KCC do not anticipate a marked decrease in school sixth form intake.

Other Infrastructure – namely planning policy and partners' plans to meet growth

22. In November 2016 the committee received an outline of how infrastructure develops to support Ashford's growth – specifically as part of the wider Local Plan process and following concerns that the expansion plans of key infrastructure providers may not fully align with the growth forecast outlined in the draft local plan. It is a national policy requirement that the new Local Plan shows no major gaps in infrastructure provision in order for it to be deemed sound by the Planning Inspectorate. In accordance with this, the Planning Policy team have reached out to all infrastructure providers and statutory partners over the last two years regarding their plans for infrastructure expansion and development.
23. Accordingly, following discussion of this scoping report the committee requested a further update from the council's Planning Policy team, which was subsequently received in January 2017.

24. The Principal Policy Planner confirmed that the draft local plan includes proposed allocation for 12,200 homes by 2030, whilst the Strategic Housing Market Assessment has projected a population increase of 25,497 between 2011 and 2031.
25. The committee heard that whilst engagement is ongoing with infrastructure partners, with different scenarios being tried and tested, some stakeholders were more adept in providing the necessary information than others. For example, Clinical Commissioning Groups had (at the time) yet to provide detailed requirements on infrastructure needs.
26. Members enquired as to what steps could be taken to influence the CCGs, and were informed that whilst recent progress had been made, if future outputs were not received then engagement from members could be helpful. **The committee resolved to engage further with Healthcare partners at the appropriate opportunity** (please see the proposed workplan for 2017/18).
27. The committee also considered the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, which brings together partners' plans into a single document. The schedule was last updated in May 2016 in line with the previous consultation period, with priorities assigned confirmed to be in relation to the need of the project to deliver the jobs and homes set out in the Local Plan. Accordingly, an updated version will be published alongside the next Local Plan consultation.

Next Steps

28. As noted in paragraph 26, at the January 2017 O&S the committee resolved to engage further with **Healthcare** partners at the appropriate opportunity. This ties in with the Wellbeing theme in the 2017/18 work programme.
29. At the April 2017 O&S the committee also agreed that a primary area for scrutiny would be **roads, major transport policies and other areas (such as 'green' and sustainable infrastructure)**.
30. Both of these areas have already been incorporated into the draft work programme for 2017/18, which is appended to the O&S Annual Report.

Bearing in mind the above (and the learning and conclusions already gathered and set out in this report) the Committee is asked to consider if there are any other areas of infrastructure provision they would like to engage with in order to take forward the work programme theme on 'Future Proofing the Borough'.

Contact details: Nick Clayton-Peck, Senior Policy, Performance and Scrutiny Officer
Nicholas.clayton-peck@ashford.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report Tracker – 23 May 2017

Report Title	Date due to O&S	Head of Service/ Report Author	Lead O&S Member / Task Group	Scope of what is to be scrutinised	Further details / current position
Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report and 2017/18 Work Programme	May 2017	Policy and Performance		The Council's Constitution requires the O&S Committee to make an annual report to full Council.	Statutory requirement
'Future Proofing the Borough' – Reflections on the Committee's recent findings on Infrastructure	May 2017	Senior Policy, Performance and Scrutiny Officer		The report provides context for the Committee to determine which areas it wishes to focus on under the theme 'Futureproofing the Borough'	
Quarter 4 2016/17 Performance Report	June 2017	Senior Policy, Performance and Scrutiny Officer		Information on what the Council has achieved through its decision-making; key performance data; the wider borough picture.	Cabinet requirement
Housing Framework Annual Report	July 2017	Housing Strategy Manager		Highlights work undertaken during 2016/17 to achieve the five priorities of the Framework and issues and opportunities presented over the last 12 months.	Cabinet requirement
Quarter 1 2017/18 Performance Report	September 2017	Senior Policy, Performance and Scrutiny Officer		Information on what the Council has achieved through its decision-making; key performance data; the wider borough picture.	Cabinet Requirement
Budget Scrutiny Task Group	September 2017	Policy and Performance	Budget Scrutiny Task Group	Agree the membership of the task group and identify training plans	

Report of Budget Scrutiny Task Group on Universal Credit		Housing, Finance (Revenues and Benefits)		The O&S Committee wishes to have an update report on the roll out of Universal Credit.	
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Recommendation Tracker

Report		
Budget Scrutiny Task Group (2017/18 budget) – Cabinet minute 285/2/17 refers		
Recommendation	Responsibility for implementation	Achievement/Completed
(iii) Services be requested to include staff resource as a separate and individual risk within the risk register for each service	Heads of Service	
(iv) Consideration of staffing within the Strategic Risk Register be enhanced	Management Team	A revised Strategic Risk Register with an enhanced consideration of staffing was presented to and approved by the Audit Committee in March 2017
(v) The PID process be endorsed as a compulsory first step for determining the viability of all new and proposed Council projects	Cabinet, Programme Manager	
(vi) An overview of progress made in delivering the Council's project programme be added as a regular agenda item to the Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' agendas	Programme Manager, Member Services	Update delivered to April 2017 Cabinet
(vii) The need for further consideration of cross service and strategic interdependencies to be taken forward by Management Team in liaison with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Management Team	
(viii) The existing apprenticeship and graduate schemes in place across the Council be continued and extended where these were possible.	Head of HR, Communications and Technology	

Report

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk – The Council’s Role and Partnership Working – Cabinet agreed 11/05/17

Recommendation	Responsibility for implementation	Achievement/Completed
(i) Safeguarding training form part of the induction training package for new Councillors	Designated Safeguarding Officer, Member Training Panel	
(ii) Level 2 safeguarding training sessions are made available for Borough Councillors	Member Training Panel	
(iii) Consideration be given to making safeguarding training available to Parish Councillors	Designated Safeguarding Officer	