

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 28 January 2019**

**Present: Councillor Tom Dawlings (Chair)**  
**Councillors Hill, Huggett, Lidstone, Mackonochie (Vice-Chairman), Ms Palmer, Uddin, Scott, Mrs Soyke, Thomson and Woodward**

**Officers in Attendance:** Stephen Baughen (Head of Planning Services) and Gary Stevenson (Head of Housing, Health and Environment)

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillors Dr Basu, McDermott and Podbury

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

OSC46/18 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hannam.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

OSC47/18 There were no declarations of interest made, within the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Members.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

OSC48/18 The minutes of the meetings dated 19 November 2018 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Committee meeting dated 19 November 2018 be agreed.

### **ITEMS CALLED IN UNDER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 13**

OSC49/18 There were no items which had been called-in under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 13.

### **CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

OSC50/18 The chairman confirmed the order of the agenda.

### **PORTFOLIO HOLDERS PLANS AND PROGRESS - PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

OSC51/18 The Portfolio Holders for Sustainability and Planning and Transportation presented their portfolio holder updates. During discussion the following points were raised:

The published public realm traffic regulation orders had been endorsed by the Council's Joint Transportation Board and the 20mph limit would be extended to include Mount Pleasant Road, and the top end of Dudley Road and York Road, where they join London Road. A number of proposals regarding provision of time-limited bays, reducing the operation of delivery vehicles and extending the hours of operation of parking bays (as part of a separate review of the Council's parking strategy) were being looked at.

The potential for rat-runs to develop was a concern and traffic monitoring was

being completed and would be picked up on as part of the scheme's completion.

KCC was the lead flood authority and had recently provided a flood investigation report to the Joint Transportation Board on the severe floods that had occurred in 2017 in parts of Tunbridge Wells.

The provision of a waste recycling centre in the East of the borough was the responsibility of KCC and the issue was being looked at by the leaders of KCC and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. The civic amenity vehicle would continue to operate.

The linking of parking permits to vehicle emissions to incentivise residents into using less polluting vehicles was being looked at.

The Council's Planning Policy Working Group was looking at how development and congestion could be dealt with. The issues being faced were that KCC dealt with highways issues and that the street scene in the town did not allow for the widening of roads.

There had not been an impact on the day-to-day delivery of Planning services as a result of the resources being used to progress the Local Plan. The relevant performance indicators were being met and had not been affected.

The Building Control service's market share was approximately 60 percent and had a business plan, including a marketing strategy, would progress over the next several years. There was a greater emphasis on customer service and the results were positive. The CIPFA guidance requires that any profit be reinvested back into the service.

**RESOLVED** to note the portfolio holder updates

## **REPORT OF THE REDUCING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN THE TOWN HALL TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

OSC52/18 The Chairman of the Reducing Single-Use Plastics in the Town Hall Task and Finish Group presented report which included recommendations from the Group. During discussion the following points were raised:

The Group also supported the work of various groups to introduce drinking fountains in the town.

**RESOLVED** to support the recommendations in the report.

## **SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS/COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - VERBAL UPDATE**

OSC53/18 The Head of Planning, Development Control provided an update on Section 106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL). During discussion the following points were raised:

As part of the work on the Local Plan, a viability consultant had been commissioned to undertake a 'whole plan viability assessment' to look at the levels of growth planned for the borough and the viability of developments to deliver private and affordable housing and the necessary contributions to

mitigate the impact on infrastructure. The work would look specifically at which system for collecting those contributions was most beneficial.

A number of authorities were moving towards the model of having an underlying CIL charge with specific Section 106 contributions, however, a government consultation on the removal of pooling restrictions would make a combined approach less viable.

**RESOLVED** to note the update.

#### **CALVERLEY SQUARE UPDATE**

OSC54/18 The update report of the Head of Economic Development and Property on the Calverley Square development was tabled at the meeting. Members were asked to provide comments through the Chairman, the Scrutiny and Engagement Officer, Nick Peeters, or directly to Mr Candlin.

**RESOLVED** to note the update.

#### **EXISTING CAR PARK PROVISION AND POLICIES - VERBAL UPDATE**

OSC55/18 The exiting car park provision and policies was included in the Committee's work programme following a request by Councillor Woodward. Councillor Woodward advised that his concerns had been responded to through work being done by the Planning Policy Working Group and he felt it was no longer necessary to include it in the work programme.

**RESOLVED** to note the update.

#### **POTHoles AND OVERALL CONDITION OF THE BOROUGH'S ROADS - VERBAL UPDATE**

OSC56/18 The Scrutiny and Engagement Officer, Nick Peeters, advised Members that Kent County Council Cabinet member for highways and Transportation, Councillor Mike Whiting, had been invited to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss potholes and the overall condition of the borough's Roads. Mr Peeters advised that he was waiting for a response from Councillor Whiting's office.

The reporting mechanism for potholes was raised as an area of concern and the volume that were not reported on.

**RESOLVED** to note the update

#### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AS OF 18 JANUARY 2019.**

OSC57/18 **RESOLVED** to note the work programme.

#### **URGENT BUSINESS**

OSC58/18 There was no urgent business.

#### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

OSC59/18 The next scheduled meeting of the Committee would take place on Monday 1 April 2019.

NOTE: The meeting concluded at 8.05 pm.