

**Classification: Public**

**Key Decision: No**

## **Gravesham Borough Council**

**Report to:** Overview Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 19 September 2019

**Reporting officer:** Chris Wakeford, Committee Services Officer (Scrutiny)

**Subject:** Scrutiny Topic Reviews

### **Purpose and summary of report:**

Members of the Committee are invited to consider the terms of reference for the two Scrutiny reviews selected by the Committee:

- Review of Street Cleanliness, littering, and Fly-tipping throughout the Borough
- Review of Gravesham Borough Council's Maritime Strategy

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Committee consider the terms of reference for each review, provide any comments / amendments and agree a final version.
2. That the Committee decide the composition of the review sub-groups
3. That the Committee consider the timescales and resources for the chosen reviews
4. That the Committee note the rationale behind the GBC Management Team's assessment on the deliverability of the original six proposed topic reviews, as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

### **Background**

- 1.1 As per Annex 2.5 of the council's Constitution, the Overview Scrutiny Committee is required to "...establish and maintain a continuing programme of Topic Reviews".
- 1.2 On 11 July 2019 the Committee agreed the following:
  - The Committee conduct a review of Fly-tipping / Littering in the Borough
  - The Committee conduct a review of GBC's Maritime Strategy
  - Cllr Steve Thompson will Chair the review of Fly-tipping / Littering in the Borough with the remaining members of the sub-group to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Committee in September.
  - Cllr Jordan Meade will Chair the review of GBC's Maritime Strategy with the remaining members of the sub-group to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Committee in September.
  - Both reviews to run concurrently and be completed by March 2020.

- The terms of reference be discussed / devised with relevant officers in July / August ready to come back to the Committee for agreement in September with the relevant Director(s) / officer(s) being invited to attend to answer questions.
- The Committee requested that a report on the rationale behind the GBC Management Team's assessment on the deliverability of the six proposed topic reviews be submitted to the next meeting in September with the relevant Director(s) / officer(s) being invited to attend to answer questions.

## 2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1 Members of the Committee are invited to consider, comment, amend (if necessary) and agree the Terms of Reference for the two reviews as attached at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

## 3. GBC's Management Team's assessment on the deliverability of the original six proposed topic reviews

- 3.1 In July 2019 GBC's Management Team considered the following six topic reviews that were put forward by the Overview Scrutiny Committee:
- **Review of Access to Health Services in Gravesham.**  
Management Team view:  
*Management Team is aware that Gravesham residents have raised this topic as a matter of concern. Management Team is also aware that there will be a significant number of GP retirements in coming years and the ability to attract new GP's into the area is also a concern.*
  - **Review of Planning Conservation Guidance.**
  - **Review of Open Spaces/ village greens and GBC's guidance / policies in this area.**  
Management Team view:  
*Management Team felt that both of these areas would be covered during the review of the Local Plan and to have a review being conducted in two different places was not an appropriate way forward.*
  - **Review of GBC's Maritime Strategy.**  
Management Team view:  
*Management Team knows the river is one of the town's most important assets and this view is held by both the Council and Gravesham residents. There have been significant changes to the local geography in proximity to the river and now is a good time to explore this area and seek to increase river access and usage.*
  - **Review of the Town Centre / Asset based regeneration of the High Street.**  
Management Team view:  
*Planning applications have either come forward or are expected to come forward that are aimed at significant regeneration of the town centre and the appropriate place for those to be considered is at the Regulatory Board (Planning) as part of the planning process.*

- **Review of Fly-tipping / Littering in the Borough.**

Management Team view:

*Management Team is conscious that this is a high profile area of activity. There are several pieces of work involving corporate working groups that are ongoing and Management Team feel that this review would tie in nicely with existing projects.*

Management Team concluded that the following three topics were considered deliverable, due to the reasons stated above:

- Review of Access to Health Services in Gravesham
- Review of GBC's Maritime Strategy
- Review of Fly-tipping / Littering in the Borough

#### **4. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 4.1 Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, be directed to Committee Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

IMPLICATIONS	APPENDIX 1
<b>Legal</b>	None identified at this stage.
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	To be confirmed once the terms of reference have been agreed but it is envisaged that the topic recommendations will be value for money for the Borough.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	To be confirmed / assessed once the terms of reference have been agreed.
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Screening for Equality Impacts</b>
	<b>Question</b>
	<p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No</p>
	<p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. N/A</p>
	<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	<p><b>Strategic Objective 1 - Safer Gravesham</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver on our 'green agenda' by increasing the levels of recycling and reducing the amount of residual household waste Generate service efficiencies to maintain weekly, effective rubbish collections.</li> <li>- Deliver a quality built and green environment; keeping streets clean and maintaining a high standard of local horticulture</li> <li>- Use all available powers to pursue anyone damaging the health of the local environment (e.g. dog fouling, littering, fly-tipping etc).</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Objective 2 - Stronger Gravesham</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote Gravesham's cultural and heritage offer, through initiatives such as helping to raise funds to bring back a museum in Gravesend</li> <li>- Deliver an improved leisure offer; activities and facilities that increase sporting participation rates and address local health inequalities.</li> </ul>
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	To be confirmed / assessed once the terms of reference have been agreed.
<b>Digital and website</b>	To be confirmed / assessed once the terms of reference have been agreed.

<b>implications</b>	
<b>Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</b>	To be confirmed / assessed once the terms of reference have been agreed.