

## Overview Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 17 September 2020

7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Jordan Meade (Chair)

Cllr Steve Thompson (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Conrad Broadley  
Leslie Hills  
Emma Morley  
Elizabeth Mulheran  
Alan Ridgers  
Christina Rolles  
Peter Scollard

Chris Wakeford                      Committee Services Officer (Scrutiny)

### 13. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

### 14. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview Scrutiny Board held on 9 July 2020 were signed by the Chair.

### 15. Declarations of interest

Cllr Conrad Broadley declared an 'other interest' in Item 5. The Re-starting of the Maritime Strategy Scrutiny Review in that he is a member of the following river organisations:

Gravesend Sailing Club  
Northfleet Harbour Restoration Trust  
Broadness Cruising Club  
Dartford and Crayford Creek Restoration Trust

Cllr Jordan Meade declared an 'other interest' in Item 5. The Re-starting of the Maritime Strategy Scrutiny Review in that he is a member of the Maritime Volunteer Service (operating at Gravesend Sailing Club).

## 16. The re-starting of the Maritime Strategy Review Sub-Group

The Committee Services Officer (Scrutiny) highlighted the progress made with the Maritime Strategy Review up to March 2020, when the review paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Several evidence gathering sessions had been held with various groups including; the Port of London Authority, Riverside Clubs (Gravesend Sailing Club, Gravesend Rowing Club, Gravesend Regatta Society, PLA Community Outreach Manager) Young People from the Youth Democracy Scheme and a visit to the Rochester Riverside Development.

The Committee Services Officer (Scrutiny) invited Members of the Committee to consider:

- Noting the work that has been undertaken on the review up to March 2020.
- Resuming the Review of GBC's Maritime Strategy
- Setting a new target date for the completion of the review
- Which areas to explore next and the format of this exploration (bearing in mind Covid-19 restrictions)

The Committee discussed the review and the importance of GBC having a Maritime Strategy, especially with regard to riverside development.

The Chair highlighted the following to the Committee:

- The Chair has spoken to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council and they have confirmed that the resources are available to resume the review.
- The Chair proposed resuming the review with a new completion date of the end of November 2020 and a report to be finalised and published in December 2020 (Members also indicated their intention to resume the Street Cleanliness Scrutiny Review in January 2021)
- If there is another lockdown, this matter will be reconsidered and the review will be paused if necessary.
- It is envisaged that, due to Covid-19 restrictions, most meetings / evidence gathering sessions for the review will be virtual.

**Resolved** that the Overview Scrutiny Committee agreed the following:

- To resume the review with a new completion date of the end of November 2020 and a report to be finalised and published in December 2020.
- Cllr Emma Morley will replace Cllr Christina Rolles on the review sub-group.
- Any further decisions on the membership of the review sub-group will be taken by the Chair in conjunction with the Vice-Chair.

## 17. Overview Scrutiny Committee Training

Following a request from the Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Committee; the Committee Services Officer (Scrutiny) provided Members of the Overview Scrutiny Committee with a summary of the Scrutiny training that is currently available and highlighted the following:

- There are many free training options currently available to Members including; e-learning modules, workbooks and webinars from the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)
- South East Employers are offering Scrutiny Training (for a fee) and this can be done via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.
- The LGA and CfPS have been contacted about the possibility of remote Scrutiny training and the Council is awaiting further detail about this option.
- There will be a broader report on Member Training that will be shared with Members at a later date. The report will include a Member Training plan for 2021-22

The Committee commended the Committee Services Officer (Scrutiny) and the Committee Services Team for their sterling work during the pandemic.

**Resolved that:**

- The Committee agreed that Members should partake in the free Scrutiny training options that are currently available and consider bespoke scrutiny training options at a later date.
- The Committee Services Officer (Scrutiny) will collate the existing free Scrutiny training options and circulate to Members of the Overview Scrutiny Committee.

**Close of meeting**

The meeting ended at 8.06 pm