

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday 6 October 2022  
Time: 6.30 pm  
Venue: Town Hall, High Street Maidstone

## Membership:

Councillors English (Chairman), Cannon (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Blackmore, Brice, Cleator, Conyard, Garten, Hastie, Hinder, Jeffery, Knatchbull, McKenna and T Wilkinson

*The Chairman will assume that all Members will read the reports before attending the meeting. Officers are asked to assume the same when introducing reports.*

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<b><u>AGENDA</u></b>	<b><u>Page No.</u></b>
1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Notification of Substitute Members	
3. Urgent Items	
4. Notification of Visiting Members	
5. Disclosures by Members and Officers	
6. Disclosures of Lobbying	
7. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information	
8. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 19 July 2022	1 - 5
9. Presentation of Petitions (if any)	
10. Question and Answer session for Local Residents (if any)	
11. Questions from Members to the Chairman (if any)	
12. Committee Work Programme	6
13. The Council's Performance against the Waste Strategy - Update Report	7 - 15
14. Water Management Cycle - Update Report	16 - 21

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**Issued on 28 September 2022**

**Continued Over/:**

*Alison Broom*

**Alison Broom, Chief Executive**

## INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

In order to ask a question at this meeting, please call **01622 602899** or email [committee@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:committee@maidstone.gov.uk) by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 4 October 2022). You will need to provide the full text in writing.

If your question is accepted, you will be provided with instructions as to how you can access the meeting.

In order to make a statement in relation to an item on the agenda, please call **01622 602899** or email [committee@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:committee@maidstone.gov.uk) by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 4 October 2022). You will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on.

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## MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 JULY 2022

##### Attendees:

<b>Committee Members:</b>	<b>Councillors Blackmore, Brindle, Cannon, Cleator, Conyard, English (Chairman), Hastie, Hinder, Jeffery, Knatchbull, McKenna, Springett and T Wilkinson</b>
<b>Visiting Members:</b>	<b>Councillors Burton, Perry, Russell and S Webb</b>

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Brice and Garten.

19. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Brindle was present as Substitute Member for Councillor Brice.

Councillor Springett was present as Substitute Member for Councillor Garten.

20. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

21. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

Councillors Burton, Perry, Russell and Webb were present as Visiting Members for Item 14 – Scoping Report – 2022/23 Work Programme.

The Chairman stated that the Members of the Executive in attendance may be called upon to answer questions from the Committee if required.

22. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures by Members and Officers.

23. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

24. EXEMPT ITEMS

**RESOLVED:** That all items be taken in public as proposed.

25. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2022

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the removal of the additional ‘topic’

contained within Minute 16 – Receipt of Suggested Review Topics (if any) and 2022/23 Work Programming, to read:

'Safety & Enforcement (as a combined suggestion from the agenda papers and Councillor suggested topics topic)'.  
'

26. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

27. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

There were no questions from Local Residents.

28. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions from Members to the Chairman.

29. NOTIFICATION OF 'CALL-IN' OF AN EXECUTIVE DECISION

There were no Executive Decisions to be reviewed.

30. RECEIPT OF COUNCILLOR 'CALL FOR ACTION'

There were no 'Councillor Call for Actions'.

31. SCOPING REPORT - 2022/23 WORK PROGRAMMING

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report. Since its publication feedback had been received to include Southern Water as a consultee within the scope attached at Appendix 1A to the report. Additionally, drought management could be a further line of enquiry to those contained within Appendix 1B to the report.

The contents of the scopes attached within Appendices 1A-1D of the report were briefly outlined. The Committee were requested to select which topics to include within its work programme and either amend and/or agree the scopes as drafted.

The recommended option was to select two large topics for review, to maintain the flexibility required for the Committee to conduct small reviews and respond to unexpected issues. If a higher number was chosen, then the reviews should be prioritised with an understanding that it may not be possible to conduct all of the reviews across the next year.

Provisional dates for extra meetings had been explored should they be required.

In evaluating each scoping proposal, the Committee discussed each appendix separately.

The Council's Performance in relation to its Waste Strategy

In response to questions, the Democratic Services Officer stated that the Director of Regeneration and Place had advised for the review to take place in quarter four

as further information would be collated on, and decisions made relating to, the service across the third quarter.

The Leader of the Council was invited to address the Committee and answer questions on the Waste Services contract procurement, tender process and timeline for the decision.

The Committee felt that it would be beneficial to conduct a review into the topic due to the importance of the service to local residents. The decision relating to the contract would be taken within approximately 18 months and the procurement exercise had commenced. Therefore, a spotlight review was preferred as this would enable an in-depth review to take place in the near future over a short timescale. The review would ideally occur in September 2022.

### The Water Management Cycle

The topic was felt to be of significant importance to the borough, however there were concerns expressed on the effectiveness of conducting the review as the Council was not the leading authority on the matter. Further concerns were expressed on the likely attendance of external bodies, such as Southern water, as part of the review. The potential to positively impact the Council's future Design and Sustainability Development Plan Document from reviewing the topic was highlighted.

In response to questions, the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance stated that for the topic to be reviewed via a Councillor 'Call for Action' all other possible options would have to have been exhausted, with the topic to be narrower in scope.

Several Members of the Committee and Visiting Members highlighted the need for a narrower scope to effectively review the topic.

In response to some of the comments made during the debate, the Committee felt that the review should focus on the supply and disposal of water and the disposal of sewage in the water courses, as the most problematic aspects of the Water Management Cycle.

The review could be conducted by a working group, to allow the Committee to progress the Safety and Enforcement review and avoid untimely delay. It was requested that the relevant water companies be contacted to ascertain whether they would be willing to attend the review before its commencement.

In response to some of the comments made during the debate, the Committee felt that the review should focus on the supply and disposal of water and the disposal of sewage in the water courses, as the most problematic aspects of the Water Management Cycle.

It was noted that the working group's membership did not have to be drawn solely from the Committee, with the group to determine their meeting arrangements.

## Health Inequality

During the debate, the Committee discussed several contributing factors to health inequality including access to housing, access to leisure facilities, mental health and wellbeing and the provision of services between the county and district level with particular reference made to Kent County Council's 'Making a Difference Everyday' social care proposals.

The Lead Member for Housing and Health addressed the Committee in support of a review to include access to housing.

The overlap between health inequality and other issues, such as enforcement, was highlighted. The Committee supported conducting a review into health inequality as it could lead to positive outcomes. The review would take place towards the end of the municipal year.

## Safety & Enforcement

In response to questions, the Democratic Services Officer stated that the topic had been split into two reviews due to the issue's wide remit, allowing for greater detail to be included within the scope attached at Appendix 1A to the report. The enforcement review had been scheduled first due to the support expressed by the Committee on reviewing enforcement at its previous meeting; the order could be amended as required.

The Committee expressed support for reviewing the topic across two separate but linked reviews, beginning with Safety as it was felt that this would better inform the enforcement review.

**RESOLVED:** That the below topics be included within the Committee's 2022/23 Work Programme with the following priority:

1. The Council's Performance against the Waste Strategy, to be conducted via a spotlight review in September 2022;
2. Safety and Enforcement review, to commence in September 2022 beginning with the safety aspect of the review;
3. The Water Management Cycle, to commence in September 2022 and focus on the supply and disposal of water and the disposal of sewage in water courses, following invitations to the relevant water companies to participate, subject to either 3a or 3b as applicable;
  - a. If attendance is agreed, a working group be created to conduct the review and determine its meeting arrangements; or
  - b. If attendance is not agreed or given in good time, the review be removed from the Committee Work Programme.
4. Health Inequality, to be conducted towards the end of the 2022/23 municipal year.

32. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 7.48 p.m.

# Agenda Item 12

## Maidstone Borough Council

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022-23 Municipal Year

<b>Review Title</b>	<b>Expected Start Date &amp; Method</b>	<b>Relevant Officer/s</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
The Council's Waste Strategy; contract re-procurement.	September 2022, Spotlight Review	William Cornall, Director of Regeneration and Place  Jennifer Stevens, Head of Environment and Public Realm	Review prior to the procurement of the next Waste Contract to ensure value.
Safety & Enforcement	September 2022 (safety element)  OSC acting as the C&D Committee Meetings	Alison Broom, Chief Executive  John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Regulatory Services  Martyn Jeynes, Community and Strategic Partnerships Manager	Review existing measures and ascertain any changes needed, in consultation with stakeholders.
Water Management Cycle	September 2022, Working Group.	Mark Green, Director of Finance and Business Improvement  William Cornall, Director of Regeneration and Place  Philip Coyne, Interim Local Plan Review Director	Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the supply and disposal of water; and</li> <li>disposal of sewage</li> </ul> to identify improvements.
Health Inequality	Early 2023	Alison Broom, Chief Executive,  John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Regulatory Services  Jolanda Gjioni, Senior Public Health Officer	Increased understanding of health inequalities across the borough and an overview of strategy and police across the relevant bodies.



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**6 OCTOBER 2022**

**The Council’s Review Against the Waste Strategy - Update Report**

<b>Timetable</b>	
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6 October 2022

<b>Will this be a Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Urgency</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Final Decision-Maker</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Lead Director</b>	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b>	Oliviya Parfitt, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

**Executive Summary**

This report provides an update on the Waste Strategy Review that the Committee added to its Work Programme at the July 2022 meeting.

**Purpose of Report**

Decision

**This report makes the following recommendations to the Committee: That**

1. The contents of the report be noted; and
2. Consideration be given to the available options contained within 3.1 and 3.2 of the report, and a decision made on which option to proceed with.

# The Council's Review Against the Waste Strategy - Update Report

## 1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
<b>Impact on Corporate Priorities</b>	<p>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure</li> <li>• Safe, Clean and Green</li> <li>• Homes and Communities</li> <li>• A Thriving Place</li> </ul> <p>Accepting the recommendation could materially improve the Council's ability to achieve all corporate priorities, due to the Committee's role in reviewing and recommending actions arising from its work programme topics.</p>	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight and Governance
<b>Cross Cutting Objectives</b>	<p>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage is Respected</li> <li>• Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced</li> <li>• Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved</li> <li>• Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected</li> </ul> <p>The report recommendations could support the achievement of all the Council's cross-cutting objectives due to the Committee's role in reviewing and recommending actions arising from reviewing the topic.</p>	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight and Governance
<b>Risk Management</b>	See Section 5 of the report.	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight and Governance
<b>Financial</b>	The proposals set out in the recommendation are all within already approved budgetary headings and so need no new funding for implementation.	Head of Finance

<b>Staffing</b>	We will deliver the recommendations with our current staffing, with an additional Member of the Democratic Services Team due to start in the near future.	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight and Governance
<b>Legal</b>	In accordance with Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) the Council is operating under Executive Arrangements.  These arrangements must include provision for the appointment of one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review and scrutinise executive decisions made, or other action taken – LGA 2000, Section 9F.	Interim Team Leader (Contentious and Corporate Governance)
<b>Information Governance</b>	The recommendations do not impact personal information (as defined in UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018) the Council processes.	Information Governance Team
<b>Equalities</b>	The recommendations do not propose a change in service therefore will not require an equalities impact assessment	Equalities & Communities Officer
<b>Public Health</b>	We recognise that the recommendations will have a positive impact on population health or that of individuals.	Public Health Officer
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	No impacts identified.	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight and Governance
<b>Procurement</b>	No immediate impacts identified, although it should be noted that the Mid-Kent Waste Cleansing Services Contract Procurement is an ongoing exercise.  Please see the Forward Plan for further information on that decision.	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight and Governance & Section 151 Officer
<b>Biodiversity and Climate Change</b>	The implications of this report on biodiversity and climate change have been considered and aligns with actions (Actions 4.1 to 4.5) of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager

## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting held on the 19 July 2022, the Committee agreed to add the 'Council's Performance against the Waste Strategy' to its 2022-23 work programme. An excerpt from the minutes has been included below:

### The Council's Performance in relation to its Waste Strategy

In response to questions, the Democratic Services Officer stated that the Director of Regeneration and Place had advised for the review to take place in quarter four as further information would be collated on, and decisions made relating to, the service across the third quarter.

The Leader of the Council was invited to address the Committee and answer questions on the Waste Services contract procurement, tender process and timeline for the decision.

The Committee felt that it would be beneficial to conduct a review into the topic due to the importance of the service to local residents. The decision relating to the contract would be taken within approximately 18 months and the procurement exercise had commenced. Therefore, a spotlight review was preferred as this would enable an in-depth review to take place in the near future over a short timescale. The review would ideally occur in September 2022.

*(19 July 2022, Minute 31).*

- 2.2 As shown above, the ongoing contract procurement was influential in the Committee's decision. To progress the review, the topic was discussed with the Chairman and the relevant officers after the Committee meeting.
- 2.3 Given the current position of the waste contract procurement, it would not be conducive to the process for the Committee's review to focus on the contract. This is further supported by the recent urgent decision made by the Lead Member for Environmental Services relating to the Mid-Kent Waste Cleansing Services Contract extension (August 2022) and the upcoming decision on the Mid-Kent Waste Cleaning Services (new) contract procurement to be made in December 2022.
- 2.4 It should be highlighted that as part of the Council's new governance model, pre-decision scrutiny is a function given to the Policy Advisory Committees (PAC). This Committee's remit is to undertake policy development and review, and post-decision scrutiny. The decision on the contract's procurement will be presented to the Communities, Housing and Environment PAC, ahead of its presentation to the Executive. Without prejudicing the decision to be made, should the decision be called-in, it would be considered by this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.5 Further, as the service is being re-procured and the Waste Strategy will be refreshed from 2023, the Committee would still be able to conduct the originally agreed Spotlight Review into the Council's performance against the latter.

- 2.6 A re-refined scope has been attached at Appendix 1 to the report, following the meeting held as described in point 2.2, that could be used to guide a spotlight review. If agreed, this review would not be as time-sensitive, so could take place later in the municipal year.
- 2.7 The Head of Environment and Public Realm will be in attendance at the 20 September 2022 meeting to answer any further questions on Waste Services.

### 3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Option 1 – Agree the revised scope at Appendix 1, to focus only on improving the Council’s performance against the Waste Strategy, ahead of the 2023 refresh, and amend the Committee’s Work programme as a result.

Possible dates for the Spotlight Review include:

Wednesday 2 November  
 Thursday 3 November  
 Friday 4 November

The Committee would be consulted via email, with the date achieving the highest attendance rate selected.

The Committee Work Programme would be amended as shown below:

#### **Maidstone Borough Council**

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022-23 Municipal Year**

<b>Review Title</b>	<b>Expected Start Date &amp; Method</b>	<b>Relevant Officer/s</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
<del>The Council’s Waste Strategy; contract re-procurement.</del>	<del>September 2022, Spotlight Review</del>	<del>William Cornall, Director of Regeneration and Place</del>  <del>Jennifer Stevens, Head of Environment and Public Realm</del>	<del>Review prior to the procurement of the next Waste Contract to ensure value.</del>
<i>The Council’s Waste Strategy</i>	<i>To have taken place by the end of November 2022, Spotlight Review</i>	<i>William Cornall, Director of Regeneration and Place</i>  <i>Jennifer Stevens, Head of Environment and Public Realm</i>	<i>Review the Waste Strategy whilst considering best practice of other Local Authorities to identify innovative improvements</i>

- 3.2 Option 2 – Remove the review from the Work Programme. If the Committee does not wish to conduct the review with a focus on the Council’s performance against the waste strategy, the review could be removed from the work programme in entirety and no further action taken.
- 3.3 Option 3 – Progress with the review, with a focus on the re-procurement of the Mid-Kent Waste Cleansing Services Contract. **This is not recommended**, meaningful scrutiny to influence the contract is not possible as the procurement which is nearing completion.
- 

#### **4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to choose either Option 1 or Option 2 as outlined above in points 3.1 and 3.2 respectively.
- 

#### **5. RISK**

- 5.1 The risks associated with this proposal, including the risks if the Council does not act as recommended, have been considered in line with the Council’s Risk Management Framework. We are satisfied that the risks associated are within the Council’s risk appetite and will be managed as per the Policy.

#### **6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

- 6.1 The review topic has been discussed at both the June and July 2022 Committee Meetings as part of the Work Programming process.
- 

#### **7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

- 7.1 If the Committee acts in accordance with point 3.1, the Committee Work Programme will be amended, and the Committee informally consulted on their preferred date to hold a Spotlight Review.
- 7.2 If the Committee acts in accordance with point 3.2, no further action will be taken on the review and the Committee Work Programme will be amended accordingly.
- 

#### **8. REPORT APPENDICES**

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix 1: Re-refined Scope for the Council’s Performance against the Waste Strategy Scope.
-

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting held on 19 July 2022: [Minutes Template \(maidstone.gov.uk\)](#)

<p><u>Proposed Topic</u></p> <p>Waste Review</p>
<p><u>Description and Reason for Review</u></p> <p>Description</p> <p>Review into the service to inform the new Waste Strategy priorities and areas of action.</p> <p>Reason for Review</p> <p>The scope focused on the Waste Strategy (2018-2023) identifying that whilst the Council is exceeding its recycling target and is currently the second highest performer in Kent, similar services provided elsewhere have delivered higher performance.</p> <p>As the strategy will need refreshing in the near future, any resulting actions from a review would have the potential to be implemented within the new strategy</p> <p>At the previous Committee Meeting, the Leader of the Council answered questions on the related Waste Services contract procurement, tender process and timeline for decision. It was felt beneficial to conduct a review into the topic due to the importance of the service to local residents.</p>
<p><u>Link to Priorities</u></p> <p>Strategic Plan Priority: Safe, Clean and Green.</p> <p>Other: To support the Council in its partnership with Ashford and Swale Borough Councils, and with Kent County Council as the Waste Authority.</p> <p>Executive Priorities: The Commitment to tackling climate change in everything the Council does</p> <p>Other: Support from the relevant Lead Member on the Executive for Environmental Services.</p>
<p><u>Spotlight Review (in-depth day/two-day review)</u></p> <p>1. <u>lines of enquiry:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore options for increasing recycling rates through assessing the best practice of other Local Authorities with similar waste collection services</li><li>• Assess customer satisfaction with the service, including interaction with customer services, to identify improvements.</li></ul>



- To review the impact of shared waste collection facilities within/from new Housing Developments on the achievement of Waste Strategy targets.
- To identify which actions within the Waste Strategy correspond with actions within the Biodiversity and Climate Change Strategy, and make recommendations to improve their shared achievement.

2. Agree stakeholders to be consulted/interviewed

Director of Regeneration and Place  
Head of Environment & Public Realm  
Waste Manager  
Communications Manager  
Customer Services Manager  
Information Governance Manager  
Engagement Officer  
Planning Dept. Major Projects Team Leader

Leader of the Council  
Lead Members for Communication and Engagement and Environmental Services.

External Stakeholders:  
Golding Homes  
Hyde Housing  
KCC/Kent Resource Partnership  
KP Waste Crime Unit

3. Possible timescales

Spotlight review to be completed in 2 days in November, report to Committee and recommendation in December

4. Produce Evidence Pack to support review

(Put together ahead of Spotlight Review)

Could include:

Waste and Recycling Strategy 2018-2023  
Information from APSE and the LGA  
Data from other authorities; Kent, CIPFA nearest neighbours  
Data on Stage 1 and 2 complaints relating to the service  
Data from Biffa, e.g. route failures  
Previous consultation data from residents' surveys

5. Produce questions to be put to consultees

Formulated via informal consultation with the Committee, based on lines of enquiry and the evidence pack.

# Agenda Item 14

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 OCTOBER 2022

### Water Management Cycle Review – Update Report

<b>Timetable</b>	
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6 October 2022

<b>Will this be a Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Urgency</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Final Decision-Maker</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Lead Director</b>	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight and Governance
<b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b>	Oliviya Parfitt, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

#### **Executive Summary**

To provide an update to the Committee on the communications with key stakeholders and Working Group Membership as part of the proposed Water Management Cycle Review

#### **Purpose of Report**

Decision

#### **This report makes the following recommendations to the Committee:**

1. That consideration be given to the suggested approach to selecting the Water Management Cycle Working Group's Membership; and
2. The group's membership be appointed in accordance with either options 3.1 or 3.2 of the report.

# Water Management Cycle Review – Update Report

## 1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
<b>Impact on Corporate Priorities</b>	<p>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure</li> <li>• Safe, Clean and Green</li> <li>• Homes and Communities</li> <li>• A Thriving Place</li> </ul> <p>Accepting the recommendation could materially improve the Council’s ability to achieve all corporate priorities, due to the Committee’s role in reviewing and recommending actions arising from its work programme topics.</p>	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Cross Cutting Objectives</b>	<p>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage is Respected</li> <li>• Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced</li> <li>• Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved</li> <li>• Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected</li> </ul> <p>The report recommendations could support the achievement of all the Council’s cross-cutting objectives due to the Committee’s role in reviewing and recommending actions arising from reviewing the topic.</p>	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Risk Management</b>	See Section 5 of the report.	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Financial</b>	The proposals set out in the recommendation are all within already approved budgetary headings and so need no new funding for implementation.	Head of Finance

<b>Staffing</b>	We will deliver the recommendations with our current staffing, with an additional Member of the Democratic Services Team due to start in the near future.	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Legal</b>	In accordance with Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) the Council is operating under Executive Arrangements.  These arrangements must include provision for the appointment of one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review and scrutinise executive decisions made, or other action taken – LGA 2000, Section 9F.	Interim Team Leader (Contentious and Corporate Governance)
<b>Information Governance</b>	The recommendations do not impact personal information (as defined in UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018) the Council processes.	Information Governance Team
<b>Equalities</b>	The recommendations do not propose a change in service therefore will not require an equalities impact assessment	Equalities & Communities Officer
<b>Public Health</b>	We recognise that the recommendations could have a positive impact on population health or that of individuals.	Public Health Officer
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	No impacts identified.	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Procurement</b>	No impacts identified.	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Biodiversity and Climate Change</b>	The implications of this report on biodiversity and climate change have been considered and aligns with actions (Actions 5.4; 5.5; 6.7; 6.9 and 8.5) of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager

## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 19 July 2022, the Committee agreed to add the 'Water Management Cycle' to its 2022-23 work programme. An excerpt from the Minutes is included below:

### The Water Management Cycle

The topic was felt to be of significant importance to the borough, however there were concerns expressed on the effectiveness of conducting the review as the Council was not the leading authority on the matter. Further concerns were expressed on the likely attendance of external bodies, such as Southern water, as part of the review. The potential to positively impact the Council's future Design and Sustainability Development Plan Document from reviewing the topic was highlighted.

In response to questions, the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance stated that for the topic to be reviewed via a Councillor 'Call for Action' all other possible options would have to have been exhausted, with the topic to be narrower in scope.

Several Members of the Committee and Visiting Members highlighted the need for a narrower scope to effectively review the topic.

In response to some of the comments made during the debate, the Committee felt that the review should focus on the supply and disposal of water and the disposal of sewage in the water courses, as the most problematic aspects of the Water Management Cycle.

The review could be conducted by a working group, to allow the Committee to progress the Safety and Enforcement review and avoid untimely delay. It was requested that the relevant water companies be contacted to ascertain whether they would be willing to attend the review before its commencement.

In response to some of the comments made during the debate, the Committee felt that the review should focus on the supply and disposal of water and the disposal of sewage in the water courses, as the most problematic aspects of the Water Management Cycle.

It was noted that the working group's membership did not have to be drawn solely from the Committee, with the group to determine their meeting arrangements.

(19 July 2022 Committee Meeting – Minute 31)

- 2.2 As requested by the Committee, the below organisations were contacted and have stated that they wish to participate in the review:

Southern Water  
Southeast Water  
Kent County Council  
Southeast Rivers Trust  
The Environment Agency

- 2.3 The next step is to appoint the working group (the group). At its previous meeting, the Committee highlighted that the group's members did not have to be drawn from the Committee's membership.
  - 2.4 The approach agreed with the Chairman and Vice-Chair was to consult group leaders for up to two nominations of Non-Executive Members and a reserve from their respective groups, that would bring benefit to and contribute to the review. A membership of 7 was felt suitable, whilst maintaining the flexibility and effectiveness provided through working groups. Working groups are not subject to the political balance rules of the Local Government and Housing Act (1989).
  - 2.5 An update will be given at the meeting as to which Members have been put forward. However, the final decision on the group's membership rests solely with the Committee.
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### **3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 Option 1 – Appoint the group in accordance with Group Leaders' wishes.
  - 3.2 Option 2 – Appoint the group from the Committee's existing membership and/or any other Members nominated.
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### **4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 There is no preferred option from an officer perspective. However, the Committee is advised to appoint a group of seven, to ensure its functional and conducts meaningful scrutiny and prevent scheduling conflicts.
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### **5. RISK**

- 5.1 The risks associated with this proposal, including the risks if the Council does not act as recommended, have been considered in line with the Council's Risk Management Framework. We are satisfied that the risks associated are within the Council's risk appetite and will be managed as per the Policy.

### **6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

- 6.1 The matter was previously considered at the 19 July 2022 Committee Meeting.
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### **7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

- 7.1 The group will be contacted to decide their meeting arrangements and progress the review.

7.2 The group's minutes will be reported to this Committee, providing regular updates on the review's progression in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part A2, Provision 6, Rule 6.7.3)

## **8. REPORT APPENDICES**

None.

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## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting held on 19 July 2022: [Minutes Template \(maidstone.gov.uk\)](#)

Maidstone Borough Council Constitution, 2022:  
[\(Public Pack\) Agenda Document for Maidstone Borough Council Constitution, 11/11/2019 00:00](#)