

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 18 July 2023  
Time: 6.30 pm  
Venue: Town Hall, High Street Maidstone

## Membership:

Councillors English (Chairman), Cannon, Mrs Blackmore, Cleator (Vice-Chairman), Conyard, Hastie, Hinder, Clark, Eagle, Munford, Round, S Thompson and Webb

*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 20 June 2023	1 - 3
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. Cabinet Forward Plan - 1 July 2023 to 31 October 2023.	4 - 14
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14. Appointment of a Working Group - Water Management Cycle Review	17 - 22

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**Issued on Monday 10 July 2023**

**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 Friday 14 July 2023). 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 4 p.m. on Friday 14 July). You will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on.

If you require this information in an alternative format please contact us, call **01622 602899** or email [committee@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:committee@maidstone.gov.uk).

To find out more about the work of the Committee, please visit the [Council's Website](#).

## MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2023

##### Attendees:

<b>Committee Members:</b>	<b>Councillors English (Chairman), Mrs Blackmore, Cannon, Clark, Cleator, Conyard, Eagle, Forecast, Hinder, Munford, Round and S Thompson</b>
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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Hastie and S Webb.

2. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Forecast was present as Substitute Member for Councillor Webb.

3. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman stated that there was an urgent item and invited the Vice-Chairman to address the Committee.

The Vice-Chairman announced that he had resigned from the position, as having reviewed his likely workload and that of the Committee's he did not feel he would be able to devote the time required to support the Committee's work.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Cleator be elected as the Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

5. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

There were no Visiting Members.

6. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures by Members or Officers.

7. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

8. EXEMPT ITEMS

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

9. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2023

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed.

10. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2023

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed.

11. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

12. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from Local Residents.

13. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions from Members to the Chairman.

14. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - 30 MAY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Democratic Services Officer provided a verbal update, outlining the additional items likely to be included in the refreshed Cabinet Forward Plan being published by the end of the week; this would allow the Committee to consider if it wished to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on those items.

**RESOLVED:** That the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

15. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman highlighted that the Committee's Work Programme was subject to change, following the Committee's consideration of Item 15 – Work Programming 2023-24.

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee Work Programme be noted.

16. WORK PROGRAMMING 2023-24

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report, and referenced the workshop held with the Committee as outlined in the report. The appendices to the report were outlined, some of which had been amended from the workshop.

In considering the topics for the 2023/24 work programme, the Committee supported conducting the second phase review into the Water Management Cycle; the majority of the work had been completed, and recent water supply issues had highlighted the need to continue the review. It was felt that the Housing Inequality and Enforcement reviews, as outlined in appendices B and C to the report respectively, were important issues to address, that could be reviewed without overloading the work programme and maintaining the flexibility required to undertake the Committee's other responsibilities. The Democratic Services Officer highlighted the importance of completing the reviews in a timely manner.

In response to questions, the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager outlined the ongoing recruitments to the Democratic Services Team; the level of staff

resource available would be re-assessed in-year, and the Committee would be informed if this would allow additional reviews to be undertaken.

**RESOLVED:** That the following items be added to the Committee's Work Programme for 2023/24:

- Water Management Cycle (Second Phase Review), to be conducted via working group;
- Enforcement; and
- Health Inequality.

17. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 7.05 p.m.

## MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key and non-key decisions which the Cabinet or Cabinet Members expect to take during the next four-month period.

A Key Decision is defined as one which:

1. Results in the Council incurring expenditure, or making savings, of more than £250,000; or
2. Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards in the Borough

The current Cabinet Members are:

 <p> <b>Councillor David Burton</b>            Leader of the Council  <a href="mailto:DavidBurton@maidstone.gov.uk">DavidBurton@maidstone.gov.uk</a>            07590 229910         </p>	 <p> <b>Councillor Paul Cooper</b>            Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning,            Infrastructure and Economic Development  <a href="mailto:PaulCooper@Maidstone.gov.uk">PaulCooper@Maidstone.gov.uk</a>            01622 244070         </p>	 <p> <b>Councillor John Perry</b>            Cabinet Member for Corporate Services  <a href="mailto:JohnPerry@Maidstone.gov.uk">JohnPerry@Maidstone.gov.uk</a>            07770 734741         </p>
 <p> <b>Councillor Claudine Russell</b>            Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure            and Arts  <a href="mailto:ClaudineRussell@Maidstone.gov.uk">ClaudineRussell@Maidstone.gov.uk</a> </p>	 <p> <b>Councillor Patrik Garten</b>            Cabinet Member for Environmental Services  <a href="mailto:PatrikGarten@Maidstone.gov.uk">PatrikGarten@Maidstone.gov.uk</a>            01622 807907         </p>	 <p> <b>Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid</b>            Cabinet Member for Housing and Health  <a href="mailto:LottieParfittReid@Maidstone.gov.uk">LottieParfittReid@Maidstone.gov.uk</a>            07919 360000         </p>

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision or a Part II decision may not be taken, unless it has been published on the forward plan for 28 days or it is classified as urgent:

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key and part II decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan.

Copies of the Council's constitution, forward plan, reports and decisions may be inspected at Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or accessed from the [Council's website](#).

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Cabinet which are normally held at the Town Hall, High St, Maidstone, ME14 1SY. The dates and times of the meetings are published on the [Council's Website](#), or you may contact the Democratic Services Team on telephone number **01622 602899** for further details.

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**David Burton**  
**Leader of the Council**

<b>Details of the Decision to be taken</b>	<b>Decision to be taken by</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Key</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Proposed Consultees / Method of Consultation</b>	<b>Documents to be considered by Decision taker</b>	<b>Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated</b>
<p>Revisions to the Covert Surveillance and Access to Communications Data Policy and Guidance Notes</p> <p>The RIPA Co-ordinating Officer is required to review and revise the Council's Policy, where necessary, every year.</p> <p>9</p>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	18 Jul 2023	No	No Open	<p>Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 11 Jul 2023</p> <p>CLr Parfitt-Reid has been consulted as Lead Member for Housing and Health. The report will be presented to CLT and HHE PAC.</p>	Revisions to the Covert Surveillance and Access to Communications Data Policy and Guidance Notes	<p><b>Gary Rowland</b></p> <p>Senior Lawyer, Corporate Governance</p> <p><a href="mailto:gary.rowland@midkent.gov.uk">gary.rowland@midkent.gov.uk</a></p>
4th Quarter Finance, Performance & Risk Monitoring Report	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	26 Jul 2023	No	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 14 Jun 2023	4th Quarter Finance, Performance & Risk Monitoring Report	<p><b>Paul Holland</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:paulholland@maidstone.gov.uk">paulholland@maidstone.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>Details of the Decision to be taken</b>	<b>Decision to be taken by</b>	<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Key</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation</b>	<b>Documents to be considered by Decision taker</b>	<b>Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated</b>
4th Quarter Financial Update & Performance Monitoring Report  7	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	26 Jul 2023	No	No Open	Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee 4 Jul 2023  Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 5 Jul 2023  Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 13 Jun 2023	4th Quarter Financial Update & Performance Monitoring Report	<b>Paul Holland</b>  paulholland@maidstone.gov.uk
Report of the Water Management Cycle Working Group (Overview and Scrutiny Committee) - Water Management Cycle A report outlining the actions taken and recommended actions produced from the Water Management Cycle Review.	Cabinet	All.	26 Jul 2023	No	No Open	The report was submitted by the Working Group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April for review and approval.	Report of the Water Management Cycle Working Group (Overview and Scrutiny Committee) - Water Management Cycle	<b>Oliviya Parfitt</b>  oliviyparfitt@maidstone.gov.uk

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Strategic CIL Assessments & Spend  ∞	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	26 Jul 2023	Yes	No Open	Planning and Infrastructure Policy Advisory Committee 7 Jun 2023	Strategic CIL Assessments & Spend	<b>Carole Williams, Rob Jarman, William Cornall</b>  Head of Development Management, Director of Regeneration & Place  carolewilliams@maidstone.gov.uk, Robjarman@maidstone.gov.uk, williamcornall@maidstone.gov.uk
Cobtree Golf Course A report on Cobtree Golf Course	Cobtree Manor Estate Charity Committee	Leader of the Council	26 Jul 2023	Yes	No Part exempt		Cobtree Golf Course	<b>Mike Evans</b>  mikeevans@maidstone.gov.uk

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<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024 – 2029</p> <p>Update on the MTFS for the next 5 year period 2024 to 2029. It sets the financial strategy including assumptions we are currently working to.</p> <p>🔗</p>	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	26 Jul 2023	Yes	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 12 Jul 2023	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024 - 2029	<p><b>Mark Green, Adrian Lovegrove</b></p> <p>Director of Finance, Resources &amp; Business Improvement, Head of Finance</p> <p>markgreen@maidstone.gov.uk, adrianlovegrove@maidstone.gov.uk</p>
Archbishop's Palace Archbishop's Palace - Next Steps	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	26 Jul 2023	No	No Part exempt	<p>Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 12 Jul 2023</p> <p>Public consultation (already undertaken)</p>	Archbishop's Palace	<p><b>Mark Green</b></p> <p>Director of Finance, Resources &amp; Business Improvement</p> <p>markgreen@maidstone.gov.uk</p>

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10 Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Update and Cost for Achieving Net Zero 2030	Cabinet	Leader of the Council.	26 Jul 2023	No	No Open	<p>Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee 4 Jul 2023</p> <p>Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 5 Jul 2023</p> <p>Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 11 Jul 2023</p> <p>Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 12 Jul 2023</p>	Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Update and Cost for Achieving Net Zero 2030	<p><b>James Wilderspin</b></p> <p>Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager</p> <p>jameswilderspin@m aidstone.gov.uk</p>

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MBC Response to the Kent Minerals and Waste Plan Review	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	26 Jul 2023	No	No Open	Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 5 Jul 2023	MBC Response to the Kent Minerals and Waste Plan Review	<b>Helen Garnett</b>  helengarnett@maidstone.gov.uk
Corporate Planning Timetable → report on process for updating the strategic plan and MTFS timetable	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	26 Jul 2023	No	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 12 Jul 2023  informal cabinet CS PAC	Corporate Planning Timetable	<b>Angela Woodhouse</b>  Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance  angelawoodhouse@maidstone.gov.uk
Communication and Engagement Strategy, Action Plan for 2023-24 plan for external engagement activities in 2023/24	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Arts	26 Jul 2023	No	No Open	Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee 4 Jul 2023  plan developed with services	Communication and Engagement Strategy, Action Plan for 2023-24	<b>Angela Woodhouse</b>  Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance  angelawoodhouse@maidstone.gov.uk

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Housing Strategy 2023 - 28 Action Plan	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	26 Jul 2023	No	No Open	Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 11 Jul 2023	Housing Strategy 2023 - 28 Action Plan	<b>Hannah Gaston</b>  hannahgaston@maidstone.gov.uk
Public Spaces Protection Order – Town Centre Renewal  The Town Centre PSPO will expire in September 2023 and needs to be renewed. The report will provide an update on the use of the PSPO and how it remains a useful tool in tackling unwanted behaviour, alongside other powers and processes which are also used.	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	Before 10 Aug 2023	Yes	No	Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 11 Jul 2023	Public Spaces Protection Order – Town Centre Renewal	<b>Martyn Jeynes</b>  martynjeynes@maidstone.gov.uk

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Housing Revenue Account  The report sets out the options for management and financial accounting of the 1,000 new affordable homes.	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	20 Sep 2023	Yes	No Open	Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 7 Sep 2023	Housing Revenue Account	<b>John Littlemore</b>  Head of Housing & Regulatory Services  johnlittlemore@maidstone.gov.uk
1st Quarter Finance, Performance and Risk Monitoring Report ☺	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	20 Sep 2023	No	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 11 Sep 2023	1st Quarter Finance, Performance and Risk Monitoring Report	<b>Paul Holland</b>  paulholland@maidstone.gov.uk
1st Quarter Financial Update & Performance Monitoring Report	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	20 Sep 2023	No	No Open	Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee 5 Sep 2023  Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 6 Sep 2023	1st Quarter Financial Update & Performance Monitoring Report	<b>Paul Holland</b>  paulholland@maidstone.gov.uk

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						Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 7 Sep 2023		

**Maidstone Borough Council**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme, 2023-24 Municipal Year**

<b>Review Title &amp; Objectives</b>	<b>Expected Start Date</b>	<b>Issue Type</b>	<b>Relevant Officer/s</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
<p><u>Enforcement</u></p> <p>To focus on Environmental and Waste Crime Enforcement</p>	September 2023	Committee Review	<p>Jen Stevens, Head of Environment and Public Realm.</p> <p>Additional Officers to be identified.</p>	From September 2023 – tbc.
<p><u>Health Inequality</u></p> <p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- focus on the impact of poor-quality housing on health inequality</li> <li>- increase understanding of health inequalities across the borough</li> </ul>	To be confirmed.	Committee Review	<p>Alison Broom, Chief Executive,</p> <p>John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Regulatory Services</p> <p>Senior Public Health Officer</p>	To be confirmed.
<p><u>Water Management Cycle – Second Stage Review</u></p> <p>To review the remaining elements identified by the working group through its first review.</p>	July 2023.	Committee Review	<p>Mark Green, Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement</p> <p>Uche Olufemi, Emergency Planning &amp; Resilience Manager</p> <p>Phil Coyne, Local Plan Review Director</p> <p>Karen Britton, Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development</p>	<p>July – September 2023.</p> <p>Formal Report – October 2023 (estimated).</p>

<b>Review Title &amp; Objectives</b>	<b>Expected Start Date</b>	<b>Issue Type</b>	<b>Relevant Officer/s</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
<u>Public Spaces Protection Order</u>	July 2023	Pre-decision Scrutiny	Martyn Jeynes, Community and Strategic Partnerships Manager.	Review as OSC acting as the C&D Committee.
<u>MTFS and 2024/25 Budget (initial proposals)</u>	September 2023	Pre-decision Scrutiny	Mark Green, Director of Finance, Resources & Business Improvement  Adrian Lovegrove, Head of Finance	In accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules (Council Constitution, Part C8), the OSC is responsible for reviewing the budget proposals.
<u>Forward Plan Monitoring</u> 16	2023/24 Municipal Year	Pre-decision Scrutiny	As applicable.	N/A
<u>Call-Ins</u>	2023/24 Municipal Year	Post-decision Scrutiny	As applicable.	N/A

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**18 JULY 2023**

### Appointment of a Working Group - Water Management Cycle

<b>Timetable</b>	
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	18 July 2023

<b>Will this be a Key Decision?</b>	Not Applicable
<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, Principal Democratic Services Officer
<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

#### Executive Summary

To appoint the Water Management Cycle Working Group and enable the second phase review into the topic to commence.

#### Purpose of Report

Decision

#### This report makes the following recommendation to the Committee:

1. That the group's membership be appointed in accordance with either options 3.1 or 3.2 of the report.

# Appointment of a Working Group - Water Management Cycle

## 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 recommendations 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>	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>	Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Risk Management</b>	See Section 5 of the report.	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.	Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Legal</b>	<p>In accordance with Part A1 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) the Council is operating under Executive arrangements.</p> <p>These arrangements must include provision for the appointment of one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review and scrutinise executive decision made, or action taken – LGA 2000, Section 9F.</p> <p>The Committee will be exercising these powers in creating a working group to carry out the review into the Water Management Cycle.</p>	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 Officer
<b>Equalities</b>	The recommendations do not propose a change in service therefore will not require an equalities impact assessment.	Equalities and Communities Officer
<b>Public Health</b>	We recognise that the recommendations could have a positive impact on population health or that of individuals.	Housing and Inclusion Team Leader
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	There are no implications to Crime and Disorder	Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
<b>Procurement</b>	No impacts identified.	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 the following actions of the Biodiversity and Climate Change action Plan: Action 5.3, Conduct Borough Climate Impact Assessment to priorities and strengthen power and water supply and other critical	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager

	<p>infrastructure ensuring more resilience communities.</p> <p>Action 6.4, Enhance and expand wetland coverage across the Borough to support nutrient neutrality, flood prevention and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Action 6.5, Implement a Nature Recovery Strategy, linking habitat restoration and creation to improve flood protection and water quality.</p> <p>Action 6.6, Work with local farms and landowners to deliver landscape scale biodiversity initiatives Nature Recovery Strategy – including reconnection of habitats, floodplain restoration, reduced chemical inputs and reintroduction of lost native species.</p>	
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## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting on the 20 June 2023, the Committee agreed to add a second phase review of the 'Water Management Cycle' to its 2023-24 Work Programme. An excerpt from the Minutes is included below.

The Committee wished to conduct the second phase review in the same way as the first; via a working group (the group), with nominations to be open to all Members of the Council.

Excerpt of Minute 16. Work Programming Report 2023-24 (20 June 2023)

*In considering the topics for the 2023/24 work programme, the Committee supported conducting the second phase review into the Water Management Cycle; the majority of the work had been completed, and recent water supply issues had highlighted the need to continue the review.*

2.2 In response, the Chairman of the Committee contacted group leaders to ask for nominations of Non-Executive Members and a Substitute Member from their respective groups. A membership of up to 7 was felt suitable, to maintain 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).

2.3 An update will be given at the meeting as to which Members have been put forward by Group Leaders. The final decision on the group's membership rests solely with the Committee.

2.4 A review via working group will require both flexibility from the group's members on its meeting dates and/or times and recognition of the additional work required. This review will need to take place in accordance with the three-to-four-month timescale allocated, to prevent slippage to the Committee's overall work programme.

### **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 up to 7 members, 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 have been briefly outlined in point 2.4 of this report, and there are no other risks associated with the proposal at this time.

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

- 6.1 The matter was previously considered by the Committee at its 20 June 2023 meeting, and as part of the first phase review in April 2023.
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### **7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

- 7.1 The group will be contacted to determine its meeting arrangements and progress the review.
  - 7.2 The group’s minutes will be reported to this Committee, to provide an update on the review’s progression in accordance with the Council’s Constitution (Part A2, Provision 6, Rule 6.7.3).
  - 7.3 Once the group has completed its review, its formal report will be presented to the Committee for consideration and approval.
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### **8. REPORT APPENDICES**

None.

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### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Agenda and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2023:

[Your Councillors - Maidstone Borough Council](#)

Maidstone Borough Council Constitution (2023):

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Maidstone Borough Council Constitution, 19/04/2023 09:00](#)