

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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REGENERATION FRAMEWORK 2008/2009 PROGRESS REPORT

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Summary

The Regeneration Framework is the strategic document that explains the priorities for regeneration, the vision for Medway of 2016 and the actions required to get there. The report covers progress against priorities, an update on a stakeholder engagement initiative, and delivery priorities until 2011 and is seeking Members views on priorities to be monitored over the next twelve months.

1 Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 This is a report on progress for members to note and is within the policy framework. Local Area Agreement targets on waste recycling, housing numbers and reduction in carbon emissions are referenced in the report.

2 Background

- 2.1 In October 2006 Medway Council adopted the Medway Regeneration Framework as a framework to provide the strategic context and the priority actions which address the challenges facing Medway. The 2016 timescale reflects the funding periods that Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) were working to. The priorities flow from Medway's Community Plan and are developed within the strategic context of the region and sub region and national aspirations for the Thames Gateway.
- 2.2 Regeneration activity will continue to focus mainly on the waterfront sites and town centres which together with opportunities at Grain and Kingsnorth and Chattenden will transform Medway as a city for the sub region, for the benefit of both existing and incoming communities.

- 2.3 The document explained the priority actions that Medway Renaissance is directly involved in progressing and complementary actions that partners are delivering. It is clear that a comprehensive programme of activity is needed to achieve the transformation of Medway into a city. There are detailed sections on community regeneration, economic growth, transport, infrastructure, town centres, culture, housing provision and the role of Medway Renaissance and Medway Renaissance Partnership.
- 2.4 Medway Renaissance has continued to work in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government (as of 1 December, the Thames Gateway Delivery sits within the Homes and Communities Agency) and the Regeneration Framework has been used as the programme for current and future funding allocations.

3 Progress

- 3.1 The Regeneration Framework details priority actions and the first twelve months progress was reported to the Regeneration and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2007. The committee confirmed that social regeneration was a priority and in particular were concerned that a Parking strategy should be produced. Working in partnership with colleagues in Integrated Transport, Operational Parking, Property and Planning a brief has been prepared, gone out to tender and an appointment is expected early February 2009.
- 3.2 Since the previous meeting a Social Regeneration Strategy has been produced and adopted by the Council.
- 3.3 The Annual Report covers the full range of Medway Renaissance activities for 2007/8 and has been circulated to all members. Further copies will be available at the meeting.
- 3.4 The Project Programme holds all the details of current and future projects led by Medway Renaissance and partners and is held in an electronic form on the Medway Renaissance website. This format is currently under review to improve its effectiveness and ensure it is up to date.
- 3.5 The work of Medway Renaissance is guided by the Medway Renaissance Partnership who receive regular reports on progress and the minutes of this meeting will be placed on the Medway Renaissance website. Individual projects such as Rochester Riverside report regularly to a Members Board on progress.
- 3.6 Funding is allocated from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). Over the next Comprehensive Spending Review period approximately £73 million funding has been allocated for regeneration activity and Medway Renaissance will continue to monitor progress both for projects it is directly delivering and partner projects. Medway Renaissance is directly delivering activity in Strood, Rochester,

Gillingham and Chatham and there are transport-focused projects at the A228, Gillingham Station, and on Public Transport routes and The Great Lines Heritage Park £2.3 million. Medway Park was allocated £5 million (from HCA) in 2007 and this activity is included in the programme.

3.7 Medway Renaissance Partnership is one of the Theme Partnerships within the Local Strategic Partnership structure and the Local Area Agreement targets of housing numbers; waste recycling and carbon emissions are part of the reporting agenda.

3.8 A critical factor in the success of the regeneration programme is the communication of the ambitions to local stakeholders and a Regeneration Ambassadors scheme has been set up. Recruitment began in September 2007 and the first cluster of Ambassadors were inducted in February 2008. The schemes official launch was in June 2008 and it continues to recruit.

The scheme has 34 Ambassadors with more currently going through the application process. The regeneration Ambassadors are a network of independent individuals including school/college students, job-seekers, pensioners, public sector employees, private sector employees and self-employed. Half are local to Medway, half are newcomers and they come from all over Medway.

They have three goals (1) To learn about Medway's regeneration plans and achievements (2) To pass on this information via their personal networks (3) To advise Medway Council on how to communicate with the public about regeneration. Medway Renaissance supports the Ambassadors network-building, their learning and each of their own initiatives to spread the word.

It cost approximately £15,000 to establish and operate the scheme for the period 2007 to 2009. £5,000 will be allocated for each financial year 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 to help continue the scheme. Other funding and sponsorship opportunities will be pursued to help sustain the scheme.

The scheme will enable local knowledge of the regeneration activity to be progressed.

4 Financial and legal implications

4.1 The work of the Medway Renaissance Unit, including the production of the Regeneration Framework and progress reports is funded by Homes and Communities Agency.

4.2 There are no legal implications.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members consider the progress against the priorities in the Regeneration Framework and identify areas for monitoring over the next twelve months.

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Spatial Programme Projects 2008 - 2011

- Rochester Riverside £1.5 million

Continued property negotiations, detailed design work, legal processes, marketing, planning submissions and management to ensure delivery of phase 1 and facilitate planning of future facilities and elements.
- Strood Centre and Infrastructure £5 million

Design and Feasibility work and implementation of improvements to highway capacity, pedestrian environment, junctions and town centre infrastructure to enable investment in Strood.
- Corporation Street £0.3 million

Design and implementation of environmental improvements at junctions on Corporation Street, focusing on Blue Boar Lane to complement Rochester riverside schemes and Quality Public Transport Programme.
- Eastgate House £1 million (unconfirmed)

Funding to complement Heritage Lottery Funding to refurbish Eastgate House and create a literary arts complex, integrating the main building, café, gallery and garden space.
- Chatham Roads phase 2 and 3 £8.050 million

To complete the highway works including junction improvements at Globe Lane, Gibraltar Hill, Union St., demolition of Sir John Hawkins Way and widening of the Brook.
- Chatham Bus Facility £6.5 million

Design and construction of dynamic bus facility and associated works.
- Chatham Development Briefs £0.40 million

To complete the development briefs work to include areas such as Best Street.
- Chatham Waterfront £2.250 million

To carry out design and feasibility work, pre-application and technical studies for development opportunities and property and legal

Appendix A

negotiations and implementation of landscaping and public realm works.

- Chatham Public Realm £1.85 million

To achieve significant environmental improvements to the public realm associated with retail areas, public squares as detailed in the approved framework and a streetscape manual for Chatham.

- Queen Street £0.450 million

Pre- application design and feasibility work to enable a mixed use development.

- Medway Renaissance £3.8 million

Core funding for the dedicated team to deliver identified projects and strategic development work such as a Parking Strategy, market assessments, visioning for Hoo peninsular and environmental technologies.

- Medway Park (Medway Council) £ 11.1million (total)

Creation of international sports facilities including running track, sports hall, gymnasium etc. to be available for 2012 training.

- Great Lines Heritage Park (Medway Council) £2.3 million

First phase of access works and improvements to create a world class heritage open space

- Parklands (other North Kent Projects) £7.815 million

- A228 (Medway Council) £9.8 million

Railway crossing improvements on A228

- Gillingham Station £1.5 million

Funding to complement monies from Network Rail to achieve a major upgrade to the station and the forecourt area.

- Quality Public Transport Corridor £13 million

Improvements to main bus corridors to provide better pedestrian access and environment and achieve junction and traffic flow improvements to facilitate bus movements.