

## **REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**7 JULY 2009**

### **REGENERATION FRAMEWORK 2009 SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT**

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

Author: Wendy Mesher, Strategy and Support Manager

#### **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 funding agreements and delivery priorities until 2011 and seeks Members views on priorities to be monitored over the next six months.

#### **1 Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 This is a report on progress for Members to note and is within the policy framework.
- 1.2 The relevant LAA targets, for the regeneration programme are:
  - N.154 - "Net additional homes provided"
  - N.155 - "No. affordable homes delivered"
  - N.156 - "No.s of households living in temporary accommodation"
  - N.186 - "per capita Co2 emissions in the local authority area"
  - N.191 - "Kgs of residual household waste per household"

#### **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 Homes and Communities Agency (previously the Department for Communities and Local Government) 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 second annual progress report was presented to the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2009. The committee requested that detailed delivery plans for the projects, subject to funding agreements, should be made available and these were circulated following the meeting. The meeting also requested an update on progress on projects, after six months and this is the substance of this report. (Attached as Appendix 1.)
- 3.2 The Annual Report covered the full range of Medway Renaissance activities for 2007/8 and activity in 2008/9 will be covered in the next Annual Report, due for publication in September.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 Funding is allocated from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). Over the current 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 The Regeneration Ambassadors scheme now numbers 38 volunteers.

#### **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. Risk Management**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action to avoid or mitigate risk</b>
Cost overruns	External funding will not be sufficient to complete a project	Project boards and progress monitoring are in place
Delays in delivery	Planning delays, land acquisition	Forward planning around authorities required and process and progress monitored

#### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Members consider the progress against the priorities in the Regeneration Framework and identify areas for monitoring over the next six months.

#### **Lead officer contact**

Wendy Mesher, Strategy and Support Manager  
 Telephone No: 01634 337162 Email: [wendy.mesher@medway.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.mesher@medway.gov.uk)