Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Supplementary agenda no.1

A meeting of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on:

Date: 31 January 2017

Time: 6.30pm

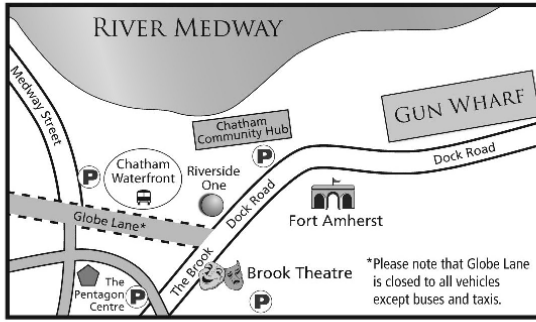**Venue:**   Meeting Room 2 - Level 3, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR

Items

10   **Housing (Demand, Supply and Affordability) Task Group -   (Pages
     Progress Report   3 - 4)**

     This addendum report updates the Committee on the discussions on
     the progress report which took place at the Regeneration, Culture
     and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 January
     2017.

For further information please contact Michael Turner, Democratic Services Officer on Telephone: 01634 332817 or Email: democratic.services@medway.gov.uk

Date: 31 January 2017

RIVER MEDWAY

GUN WHARF

Medway Street

Chatham Community Hub

Chatham Waterfront

Riverside One

Dock Road

Dock Road

Globe Lane*

Fort Amherst

The Brook

Brook Theatre

The Pentagon Centre

*Please note that Globe Lane is closed to all vehicles except buses and taxis.

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BUSINESS SUPPORT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

31 JANUARY 2017

HOUSING (DEMAND, SUPPLY AND AFFORDABILITY) TASK GROUP: PROGRESS REPORT

Report from: Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer

Author: Michael Turner, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This addendum report updates Cabinet on the discussions on the progress report which took place at the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 January 2017.

1.   Background

1.1   The Committee was reminded that in May 2016 the Housing (Demand, Supply and Affordability) Task Group had made a number of recommendations to help manage demand and improve the supply and affordability of housing in Medway.

1.2   The Committee received a report and action plan summarising progress against each of the recommendations of the Task Group. The Head of Planning outlined the progress against each of the recommendations and advised that those shaded grey fell within the remit of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.3   A Member suggested that it would be helpful for future update reports to include information on the benefits to local people of increased house building programmes from employment opportunities.

1.4   In response to a question as to the benefits in increasing the level of communication with developers, the Head of Planning outlined the various liaison events that currently took place between the Council and developers.

1.5   He drew attention to the benefits of the developer planning presentation to Members at the pre-application stage, which enabled developers to hear views of their proposed applications and in some cases enabled them to adapt applications prior to submission to the Planning Committee. Developers had confirmed that they were appreciative of Medway's system as this was not offered by all local authorities.

1.6	The Head of Planning also drew attention to work being undertaken to assist small and medium sized enterprise (SME) builders to enter the housebuilding market in Medway through the pre-application and planning processes to make it easier, smoother and quicker for applicants.

1.7	The Committee:

a)	noted the progress made against the Task Group recommendations.

b)	noted that future reports will include information as to the benefits of housebuilding programmes for local employment opportunities and the assistance given to small and medium sized enterprises (SME) builders to enter the housebuilding market in Medway.

2. Recommendation

2.1	That the Committee notes the comments of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Lead officer contact

Dave Harris, Head of Planning.
Email: dave.harris@medway.gov.uk

Mark Breathwick, Joint Acting Head of Strategic Housing
Email: mark.breathwick@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

None

Background papers:
None