

# Council – Supplementary agenda No.3

**A meeting of the Council will be held on:**

**Date:** 28 April 2016

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Venue:** St George's Centre, Pembroke Road, Chatham Maritime, Chatham  
ME4 4UH

## Items

- 7A) Brian Slater of Rochester submitted the following question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett: (Pages 3 - 4)**

Written response attached

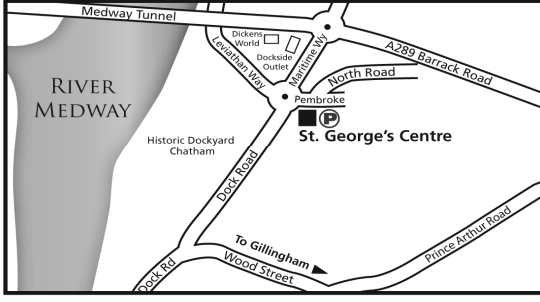
- 7B) James Chespy of Gillingham submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Councillor Brake: (Pages 5 - 6)**

Written response attached

- 11H) Councillor Osborne submitted a question to the Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships, Councillor Rodney Chambers OBE, the following: (Pages 7 - 8)**

Written response attached

For further information please contact Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services on Telephone: 01634 332760 or Email: [democratic.services@medway.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@medway.gov.uk)



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If you have any questions about this meeting and you want to speak to someone in your own language please ring **01634 335577**

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## **Full Council**

**28 April 2016**

### **Public Question No. 7A**

**Brian Slater of Rochester asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett, the following question:**

Please tell me how much is the total cost per annum of publishing and distributing the in-house magazine "Medway Matters".

### **Written response from Councillor Jarrett:**

Medway Matters costs 0.15 pence a copy which is exceptional value for money when you consider the breadth of information included and the number of residents it reaches.

We deliver Medway Matters to over 118,000 homes as it's important we tell our residents about the services on offer to them as well as promoting our fantastic events, our leisure opportunities and everything else that makes Medway a great place to live.

One of our recent independent resident telephone surveys told us that 85% of residents want to receive information on council services from Medway Matters.

At just 0.15p a copy, the cost per annum is £71,488 (after we deduct the income Medway Matters brings into the council from advertisers), making the publication a respected and cost effective information resource for residents.

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## **Full Council**

**28 April 2016**

### **Public Question No. 7B**

**James Chespy asked the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Councillor Brake, the following question:**

Does Medway Council plan to join the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge and if so will it consider appointing a Medway Mental Health Champion?

### **Written Response from Councillor Brake:**

Medway Council are committed to a range of initiatives promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.

I am particularly proud of the work that we've done in relation to men's mental health through the men's shed initiative.

I am aware of the Local Authority Mental Health challenge, and have been involved in discussions with senior officers from Public Health and Adult Social Care to consider Medway signing up for the programme as it would build on the existing work that we have undertaken.

I am pleased to announce that with the full support of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Alan Jarrett, Medway Council will be signing up for the initiative and a Medway Mental Health Champion will be appointed.

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## Full Council

28 April 2016

### Member Question No. H

**Councillor Osborne asked the Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships, Councillor Rodney Chambers OBE, the following question:**

A recent Freedom of Information request has revealed that the annual ongoing operational cost for the Chatham-based 'Medway Big Screen' is up to £30,000 per year. Does the Portfolio Holder believe that this is really a valuable use of tax-payers money or does he agree with me that is it time to look invest the equivalent sum to member ward improvement funds so that we can spend on real community initiatives?

**Written response from Councillor Gulvin, on behalf of Councillor Chambers OBE:**

“Chatham Big Screen is externally funded from the Growing Places Fund – it isn't Medway Council money.

We successfully bid for £2.9 million of government funding that is solely to be used for regeneration projects. With this funding we have made improvements to the river walk, Sun Pier, Pier Chambers and Medway Street – and it also funds the Big Screen Chatham. In addition, the success of the works delivered with this funding has enabled the Council to drawdown a further £4m as part of the Local Growth Fund; Chatham Placemaking Project.

Big Screen Chatham is helping us push ahead with the regeneration of our city centre, and is an effective and affordable way for the council to communicate with residents about the range of services available to them.

It gives residents useful public information – on everything from how to stay well, how to get the right skills for the jobs being created by our regeneration programme, to what to do in Medway – from events, theatres, parks and more. It is seen by thousands of our residents daily (as well as visitors) – something that would cost the council much more if we produced multiple leaflets instead.

Chatham Waterfront has the potential to become a hub for entertainment, culture and leisure. It is our aim for it to become a central focus for Medway, linking the town centre to the river. In time we believe this will become a platform for town centre events – both on-and-off screen – creating a vibrant, dynamic and safe public open space for residents and visitors.

If we hadn't bid for this funding and already made massive improvements with it – with much more to come – the money would have gone to another area. This is benefitting our residents”.