

**Council**  
**26 July 2012**  
**Leader's Report**

### **Armed Forces Covenant and Armed Forces Day**

The Leader of Medway Council, Cllr Rodney Chambers OBE and the Mayor of Medway, His Worshipful Cllr Vaughan Hewett, signed the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of Medway Council earlier this month. The event was well attended by the Council and partners.

As per the last three years Medway was proud to host Armed Forces Day in June, which saw members of the Armed Services and veterans parade through Rochester.

### **World Heritage Status and the University Technical College**

Medway has recently suffered setbacks in its bids for World Heritage Status for Chatham Historic Dockyard and its defences and for a University Technical College. Work continues to determine the basis for these recent decisions and the council will consider bidding for both again in future rounds.

### **Jubilee Celebrations and Festivals**

Medway is hosting a number of celebrations in 2012, our year of celebration. In commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Medway hosted its first ever River Festival, which proved a great success and is hoped to be repeated in the future. Other Jubilee celebrations included at least 30 street parties, six Jubilee Beacons being lit and a special service at Rochester Cathedral. With the Sweeps, Dickens and Fuse Festival all taking place in the last few months, Medway has the most festivals in the South East with 28 days of free festivals. In addition the Castle concerts were their usual spectacular success.

### **Medway and the London 2012 Olympics**

Medway Council welcomed the Congo National Committee and the Egyptian Boxing Team to Medway on 9 July. In addition, last week saw the Olympic Torch pass through Medway and tomorrow will see Medway launch its Olympic celebrations with an expected 3,000 people running and walking the Medway Mile before watching the Olympic Opening Ceremony on a big outdoor screen in the Castle gardens.

### **Government Aviation Consultation**

The Government has announced that this July will see an aviation consultation examining emissions, night flights, noise levels and regional airports. Later this year should see the start of the aviation consultation that will look at maintaining Britain as a global hub; which will include discussion of a Thames Estuary Airport. Whatever the outcome, Medway Council remains committed to opposing any Estuary airport.