

## **CABINET**

**27 NOVEMBER 2012**

### **PROPOSED CHATHAM REGENERATION BOARD**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rodney Chambers, Leader

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

Author: Stephen Gaimster, Assistant Director, Housing Development  
and Transport

#### **Summary**

It is proposed to re-establish a Chatham Regeneration Board to ensure the Council is in a position to effectively progress regeneration in Chatham.

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

1.1 The establishment and appointment to Cabinet Advisory Groups is a matter for Cabinet.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 The Cabinet has established a number of Advisory Groups to assist in the key areas of corporate parenting, the local development framework, the local transport plan, regeneration and the Council's procurement arrangements. These groups have no decision-making powers and consist of both executive and non-executive Councillors. In some instances they also include external representatives.

2.2 The Chatham Board was originally established as a Cabinet Advisory Group on 2 June 2009 with the remit of overseeing the regeneration of the Chatham Centre and Waterfront area of Chatham. The terms of reference set out a number of particular project areas:

- Chatham Bus Facility
- Chatham Road Improvement Schemes
- Queen St – Proposed redevelopment of a council owned site
- Waterfront – Comprehensive redevelopment of the waterfront area
- Public realm – Improvements to key public spaces in Chatham Centre
- Development Briefs – Master planning of key areas of change within Chatham Centre
- Other major redevelopment opportunities.

- 2.3 On 7 June 2011 the Cabinet approved a recommendation that Chatham Board, together with the Medway Regeneration Advisory Group and Strood Regeneration Cabinet Advisory Group, be subsumed into a new Medway Regeneration Community & Culture Advisory Group covering regeneration issues, whether promoted:
- directly by Medway Council (such as the Civic Centre redevelopment site);
  - jointly promoted (such as Temple Waterfront - a partnership regeneration project between the Council, Lafarge and Morgan Timber); or
  - private sector promoted (such as Victory Pier).
- The new group overviews regeneration issues in Strood, Chatham, Gillingham and elsewhere, such as the Peninsula.
- 2.4 Since then circumstances have substantially changed:
- recruitment is underway to appoint a Strategic Regeneration Project Manager with responsibility for progressing and delivery regeneration in Medway.
  - officers have met with representatives from NAMA (Ireland's "National Asset Management Agency") who control the debt and ownership of Pentagon Shopping Centre.
  - various funding streams have enabled a series of projects to be progressed including:-
- 2.5 **Growing Places**  
Growing Places funding of £2.9m is aimed at removing barriers to development in the Chatham Waterfront area.
- 2.6 **BIG Local**  
The Big Local Lottery Fund in England is investing up to £200 million in 100 – 150 urban and rural neighbourhoods. Medway successfully won £1million for Luton & Wayfield and the Brook Lines areas. A resident's panel will decide on priorities for spending the awarded funding.
- 2.7 **DNA Community Programme**  
The Deprived Neighbourhood Approach (DNA) project aims to help local residents to improve their quality of life, by empowering them to make change in their communities. Chatham Central and Luton are the focus areas with funding allocation of 672,673 Euros. Key themes will be tackling alcohol and drug abuse, facilitating health checks for residents, and implementing small physical public realm changes.
- 2.8 **High Street Innovation Fund**  
Medway has been awarded £100,000, one of 100 towns to be given funding, which will be targeted on town centre improvements but with a predominant focus on Chatham.
- 2.9 **RECREATE**  
Medway has secured £400,000 of European funding for project RECREATE, which will boost economic prosperity by growing new business clusters from the creative industries. RECREATE will transform vacant commercial and cultural premises into studios, showcases and workspaces for creative entrepreneurs, graduates and artists.

### 3. Advice and Analysis

- 3.1 In these changed circumstances it is recommended that a renewed Chatham Regeneration Board is established with a remit to oversee regeneration in Chatham. The Board will
- review the overall strategy for Chatham regeneration
  - coordinate individual funding streams, projects and initiatives to ensure they contribute to Medway's overall regeneration agenda.
  - ensure all opportunities to regenerate Chatham are pursued
  - oversee progress on individual projects such as Queens Street and Chatham Waterfront sites are progressed.

### 4. Financial and Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Requirements under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 concerning political proportionality do not apply to these advisory groups. It is a matter for Cabinet to establish and/or remove such groups as appropriate, as well as determine their size and composition.

### 5. Risk management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action to avoid or mitigate risk</b>
1. Poor coordination of Chatham Regeneration projects	6–8 separately funded regeneration projects in Chatham need coordination	Establish Chatham Regeneration Board
2. Lack of funding	Chatham Board to provide coordination to ensure all funding opportunities are pursued	Establish Chatham Regeneration Board

### 6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That Cabinet approve the re-establishment of a Chatham Regeneration Board as a Cabinet Advisory Group, with the terms of reference and membership, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 6.2 That the Cabinet agrees to remove the regeneration of Chatham from the terms of reference of Medway Regeneration Community & Culture Advisory Group.
- 6.3 That the Cabinet delegate authority to the Chief Executive to finalise the membership of the Chatham Regeneration Board, in consultation with the Group Whips.

## **7. Suggested reasons for recommendation**

- 7.1 A Chatham Regeneration Board will provide improved coordination and oversee progress of regeneration in Chatham.

### **Lead officer contact**

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### **Background papers**

None

**Proposed Chatham Regeneration Board**

**Terms of Reference**

**1. Membership**

Leader, Cllr Jarrett, Cllr Doe, Cllr Chitty, Cllr Mackness plus 1 Labour Member.

**2. Remit**

- keep under review strategies to regeneration of Chatham
- coordination of regeneration initiatives, projects and funding streams related to Chatham Regeneration
- pursue external funding opportunities
- ensure all appropriate development opportunities are appraised and pursued as appropriate
- progress development of Queens Street and Chatham Waterfront sites as appropriate.
- Ensure a positive message re Chatham Regeneration is effectively communicated

**3. Meetings**

To be held 3-4 times a year.

**4. Status**

Cabinet Advisory Group