

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

**6 AUGUST 2015**

### **COUNCIL PLAN YEAR END 2014/15 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

Report Coordinated by: Stephanie Goad AD Communications, Performance and Partnerships

Contributors: Regeneration Communities and Culture Directorate  
Management Team

Corporate Performance and Intelligence Team

#### **Summary**

This report sets out the performance summary for Quarter 4 Year end 2014/15 against the Council priorities relevant for this committee: Safe, clean and green Medway and Everyone benefiting from the area's regeneration

This report includes performance data and service comments on:

- 18 Key Measures of Success
- 12 Key projects

Data for 2 of the 18 measures is not available this quarter.

#### **Performance highlights**

- 81% (13/16) Key Measures of Success were on target
- 62% (10/16) Key Measures of Success have improved since last year

#### **Awards and achievements**

- Investors in People (IiP) Gold Award (October 2014)
- The most improved performer for Public Transport and Walking & Cycling in the UK (National Highways and Transport Awards 2014)
- 7 Green Flag sites
- Successful "No to Thames Estuary Airport" campaign
- "Medway 100 Apprenticeship" Campaign (£100,000 of support from Medway Council to support 100 apprentices)
- Six Customer Service Excellence awards (Leisure, Sport and Tourism, Housing Revenue Account, Libraries, Waste Services and Customer Contact)
- Opening of Strood Community Hub
- Mindful Employer Charter (Awarded to Medway as an employer with a positive approach to mental health)
- Positive about Disabled People (two ticks) accreditation.

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

- 1.1 This report summarises the performance of the Council's Key Measures of Success for 2014/15 as set out in the refreshed Council Plan 2013/15.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 This report sets out the performance summary against the two relevant Council priorities and two values for this Committee:

### **Medway's Priorities**

- Safe Clean and Green Medway
- Everyone benefiting from regeneration

### **Medway's Values**

- Putting our customers at the centre of everything we do
- Giving value for money

- 2.2 It focuses on where we have achieved or exceeded our targets, and how we are addressing areas for improvement.

- 2.3 Members should note that Council agreed on 25 July 2013 that the scrutiny of housing performance would be discussed at Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Therefore any performance information highlighted grey within the report is not relevant to this Committee and falls under other Overview and Scrutiny Committees. They have been included to provide context and clarity of how the priorities as a whole have been performing.

- 2.4 Sections 6 and 7 are similarly highlighted grey, as these related to Council wide performance against the values, rather than just RCC specifically. These sections are to be reviewed at other Committees. Therefore these sections are also only included to provide context and clarity of how the values as a whole have been performing.

## **3. Summary of performance**

### **3.1 Key Measures of Success - Summary**

We monitor 23 Key Measures of Success to gauge if we are delivering the priorities in our Council Plan. Details of these 23 measures are included in Appendix 1.

2 of the 23 measures are Public Health measures and 3 relate to Housing performance.

Of the 18 measures monitored by this Committee 2 are data only (target not required or appropriate). Q4 data is not available for these measures.

The Council has successfully met 13 out of 16 measures with targets for Q4.

## **4. Key priority: Safe, Clean and Green Medway**

### **4.1 Key measures of success**

Details of the 6 Key Measures of Success for this Council priority are included in Appendix 1.

- 4 out of 6 Key Measures of Success were on target
- 4 out of 6 Measures have improved compared with last year

There are 4 data only measures. Two of the 4 data only measures are Public Health measures.

### **4.2 Service Comments**

#### **4.2.1 Environmental Health Team**

Medway Council remains vigilant on businesses hygiene and compliance standards. 94.64% (1736/1750) of food businesses were found to be broadly compliant (excluding businesses not rated or outside the programme), the best results achieved in the last five years.

Medway Council successfully prosecuted several high-risk non-compliant food businesses including the prosecution of 167 High Street Gillingham that resulted in fines of £14,500 and the prosecution of the Chatham BB's Coffee and Muffins that resulted in fines of £15,000.

#### **4.2.2 Medway Trading Standards Team**

In 2014/15 Medway Trading Standards Team had an overall business compliance score of 95.3% against a target of 85%.

#### **4.2.3 Responsible dog ownership**

This year the Council has undertaken several initiatives to promote responsible dog ownership in Medway. During the summer, nine Day for Every Dog events took place across Medway. Workshops were held at the events for children on how to interact safely with dogs and seven trained Community Wardens provided free micro chipping to dogs. The Council now also provides free chipping to dogs leaving kennels in order to reduce future incidences of straying. In 2014/15 the micro chipping scheme led to a total of 341 dogs being chipped by the Council.

#### **4.2.4 Street Scene Enforcement Team**

To ensure environmental crimes in the public realm are detected and enforced the Street Scene Enforcement Team attend every fly tip to search for evidence and where possible remove it immediately. All fly tips are attended within one working day and in 2014/15 1,888 fly tips were addressed, with 90% of them removed on the same day and 12% yielding evidence for further investigation.

The total tonnage cleared amounted to 125 tonnes. In total 42.4% (801) of fly tips were dealt with by the team before being reported to the Council. During 2014/15, 69 cases were successfully prosecuted at Medway Magistrates Court with fines and costs totalling £39,457.

To encourage people to take pride in their local area the Council has attended 70 Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, 50 community engagement events and completed 43 community cleanups/litter picks.

#### **4.2.5 Domestic Abuse**

Medway Council alongside our partners is committed to prevent and reduce Domestic Abuse (DA). The Pan Kent Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Service (IDVA) operates across Kent and Medway and is provided by a consortium of four voluntary sector organisations: KDAC (Kent Domestic Abuse Consortium). The service has been running since April 2013 and is in its second-year of a three-year term. The multi-agency funding supports high and lower risk of domestic abuse.

Figures for domestic abuse have been finalised up to Q3 2014/15, during the first 9 months of 2014/15 KDAC has already supported 357 clients, compared to a total of 295 clients in its entire first year. At the end of Q3 2014/15 95.7% (1111/116) of clients had their risk of domestic abuse reduced as a result of IDVA intervention. Reported incidences of domestic abuse in Medway have decreased slightly; Kent Police dealt with 4,186 in the first nine months of 2014/15 compared to 4467 during the same period of time in 2013/14.

Medway Council conducted a range of activities in 2014/15 to promote awareness of and reduce domestic abuse. June 2014 saw the launch of the young people's violence advisor programme supporting young people aged 13 to 17 experiencing intimate partner violence. Medway's Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop offering free advice and support to customers moved to larger premises in the Sunlight Centre to provide a more effective service. The Council together with the Medway Safeguarding Children's Board (MSCB) and Domestic Abuse Health Visitor delivered a number of training sessions on domestic abuse, safeguarding children and domestic abuse stalking and honour based violence (DASH) risk assessment to multi agency partners.

The Medway Domestic Abuse Forum organised a conference in November 2014 to mark the national elimination of violence against women and girls campaign. The conference was attended by over 120 people from multi agency partners and was an invaluable resource for information sharing. November 2014 also saw the launch of Medway Council's revised Domestic Abuse Policy.

Medway Council has submitted an action plan to the White Ribbon Campaign to become a White Ribbon Authority. The White Ribbon is a symbol of hope for a world where women and girls can live free from the fear of violence and through this campaign Medway Council hopes to challenge the acceptability of violence.

#### **4.2.6 Parks and open spaces**

The Council maintains parks and open spaces for the enjoyment of all and the Council secured seven Green flag awards (the national quality benchmark for parks) in 2014/15. The Council has also engaged 27 active groups to support a diverse range of activities from allotment management through to site tasks and supporting funding applications.

Volunteers gave a total of 14,080 hours to the maintenance of Medway's Greenspaces in 2014/15. A number of play area improvements have been

completed in 2014/15 including those at Rushdean Road, Lordswood Leisure Centre, Riverside Country Park and Church Green.

#### 4.2.7 Key Project: Weekly kerbside recycling and composting service

The Council is working with the residents of Medway to increase recycling and reduce waste going to landfill sites. Provisional figures indicate that in 2014/15, 45.1% of household waste has been sent for reuse, recycling and composting, 2 percentage points over the target of 43%. This is an improvement on 2013/14 figures of 41.20%.

Since the launch of weekly recycling in October 2013, 17 articles and adverts (13 in 2014/15) have been published in Medway Matters in addition to a special edition encouraging residents to recycle and minimise their waste. Press releases were also issued promoting home composting and recycling. A short video, which was produced in September 2014 to reinforce the recycling message, was endorsed on the Medway Matters website and broadcast on the Big Screen.

In March 2015, a double-sided recycling leaflet was inserted into 112,540 council tax bills. Tonnage, participation and service requests will be monitored in Q1 2015/16 to evaluate the impact of the leaflet.

The kerbside recycling rate is used to evaluate performance of weekly recycling (this does not include household waste recycling centres, bring sites, bulky collections etc.). Comparing materials collected at kerbside (recycling and composting) in 2014/15 to the previous year, there has been an increase in the kerbside recycling rate with 42.2% of material recycled or composted compared to 40% in 2013/14. In addition there has been a 1.4% reduction in black sack waste.

Quarterly kerbside performance has remained above the 35% target throughout 2014/15:

Q1	48.5%	(Q1 2013/14 = 42.1%)
Q2	45%	(Q2 2013/14 = 40%)
Q3	39.56%	(Q3 2013/14 = 41.59%)
Q4	35.65%%	(Q4 2013/14 = 37.41%)

The kerbside recycling rate varies seasonally (e.g. more garden organics in spring/summer) and was greater in 2013/14 Q3 and Q4 following the introduction of weekly recycling collections and substantial publicity.

In order to produce higher quality recyclate whilst reducing costs of waste treatment the Council alongside Veolia has been finalising the roll out of twin stream recycling in flats, with the full roll out likely to be completed within two years.

## 5. Key priority: Everyone benefiting from the area's regeneration

### 5.1 Key measures of success

Details of the 10 key measures of success for this Council priority are included in Appendix 1.

- 9 out of 10 Key Measures of Success were on target
- 6 out of 10 Measures have improved compared with last year

There are 3 measures relating to housing performance.

## 5.2 Service Comments

### 5.2.1 Homelessness

The level of households applying as homeless has increased both nationally and regionally and Medway has experienced the same trend with a year on year increase in applications. The number of households making a homeless application in 2014/15 increased by 76% from 911 in 2013/14 to 1437 in 2014/15. The rise in demand for the homeless service has been driven by a number of factors primarily connected with the difficulties households have in securing suitable affordable accommodation in the private sector, and a limited supply of affordable housing. Despite the increase in the number of applications, officers reached 79.5% (1,100/1,383) of homelessness decisions within the government recommended target of 33 days, an improvement on 2013/14 (75.7% 634/837).

In some cases the Council cannot prevent homelessness and there is a requirement to provide some households with temporary accommodation (TA) whilst their situation is investigated or suitable alternative accommodation is sourced. At the end of Q4 there were 260 households living in TA. Whilst an increase in homeless applications had been anticipated, the level has been above that expected, leading to an increase in the demand for TA.

Work is continuing within the team to find suitable alternative arrangements to TA and on the occasions that families are placed into bed and breakfast they are moved on to alternative accommodation as soon as possible. A snapshot at the end of Q4 2014/15 showed that no households with dependant children had been in B&B for more than six weeks (the prescribed time by government). This highlights the efforts made by the Housing Team to move families into secure dwellings as soon as possible.

### 5.2.2 Employment

Creating job opportunities and a thriving economy for Medway and its residents is integral to Medway Council and several work programmes are delivered by the Council to support this commitment. Medway Council's GAPS programme helped 54 young residents find apprenticeships in 2014/15. Innovative techniques used to help young people into employment included GAPS joining forces with local colleges to offer horticulture apprentices to customers with lower skill levels. The TIGER business loan scheme came to a close in October 2014. Through loans totalling £4.3m the scheme supported the start up and growth of 13 businesses in Medway, helping to create 180 jobs.

2014/15 provisional figures show that during the financial year Medway Council helped create and safeguard 460 jobs, assist 364 people into work and aid 220 customers to sustain work for at least 6 months. Employ Medway had 554 local people registering to access its services.

Overall unemployment levels in Medway have reduced with the percentage of people aged 16-64 claiming Job seekers allowance (JSA) reducing from 3% in March 2014 to 2.2% in March 2015. Additionally the percentage of people aged 16-24 claiming JSA reduced from 4.4% in March 2014 to 3% in March 2015. In March 2015 overall JSA claimant levels in Medway were the lowest they have been since March 2008.

As a result of unemployment decreasing throughout the year the number of referrals to Employ Medway has also decreased reducing the amount of customers Employ Medway has had to work with.

The Council is keen to develop Medway's industries and provided 810 intensive assists to local businesses this year. An intensive assist involves the Council providing businesses with 2 hours of support on a specific area of business to help its growth and sustainability. The Council sponsored a Construction Expo in October 2014, in which business and industry leaders from the South East met to discuss the latest construction, manufacturing and engineering trends. The inaugural meeting of the private sector- led Medway Innovation Board was held on 25th March at Innovation Centre Medway and members of the board are currently developing a forward work programme.

### 5.2.3 Integrated Transport

In 2014/15 the Council has led a range of initiatives to improve the lives of residents in Medway. Securing a reliable and effective local transport network and reducing congestion remain a key focus. In May 2014 Cabinet approved a number of new contracts for the operation of Supported Bus Services and Yellow School Buses, achieving a saving of £127,000 per annum and improving the frequency and capacity of local bus services.

Partnership working with colleagues in Kent County Council has led to the trial of the new Smart Ticketing scheme, which commenced in September 2014. This scheme enables passengers to access public bus services via cashless transactions, resulting in improved boarding times and the removal of barriers to access the service such as correct coinage. The trial has received positive feedback and full implementation of Smart Ticketing is on course for Q2 2015/16.

The South East Local Enterprise Partnerships announced at the end of Q4 2014/15 that Medway Council was successful in securing £28.6m in Local Growth Funding (LGF) for five projects (Four Elms Roundabout, Strood journey time improvements, Medway City Estate accessibility, Cycle action plan and Chatham town centre improvements) that were previously given provisional funding. Officers are working towards the necessary governance and procurement arrangements to manage each of the five projects and works will continue into 2015/16 and beyond.

To improve health and reduce car journeys, the Council has undertaken several activities to get people cycling and children walking to school. The Council participated in International Walk to School month in October 2014 with 19 Medway schools taking part and Medway now has a total of 50 walking bus routes. The Walk on Wednesday and Active Big initiatives have been set up and 98 classes in Medway signed up for the 2014/15 academic year. The Kent Messenger Walk to School Awards were held at the Historic Dockyard in February 2014, supported by the Safer Journeys Team. A number of awards were given to schools in Medway and the event was reported positively in the media.

Road safety remains a priority for Medway Council and The National Brake Road Safety Week initiative was successfully implemented in November 2014. This project included a range of road safety schemes and activities to promote driver and pedestrian welfare. In Q4 2014/15, 99 primary school classes (2,669 pupils) and 240 secondary school students received road safety education visits. The Winter Drink Drive campaign was also implemented in partnership with Kent County Council, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Kent Police, and Public Health. This Campaign included an initiative on Message Signs and a joint press/media campaign.

Medway Council transport services received positive customer feedback in 2014/15. Results from the annual National Highways and Transport (NHT) Survey showed an improvement with overall satisfaction in Medway, increasing from 55.2% in 2013 to 56.4% in 2014, above the Unitary Authority average of 55.5%. The Council was awarded the most improved performer for Public Transport and Walking & Cycling in the UK at the NHT Public Satisfaction Survey 2014 Outstanding Performance awards. In addition Medway Council was in the top five most improved performers for Tackling Congestion and Road Safety.

In March 2015 Transport Focus published the results of the Passenger Focus survey completed in Autumn 2014, showing a very favourable response to the service provided by bus operators in Medway. Of those surveyed 88% (845/960) were satisfied with the standard of bus service provided, 76% (672/884) were satisfied with bus punctuality and 88% (844/959) were satisfied with the on bus journey time.

#### **5.2.4 Libraries**

To get Medway's children and adults reading Medway Council's libraries have run several programmes this year. Medway's inaugural Children's Book Festival took place in October with approximately 2,500 school children attending and 3,215 young people took part in the Summer Reading Challenge resulting in 247 new library members. The Library Service has been awarded the Reading Agency's bronze award for the Six Book Challenge (aimed at adults to build reading confidence and literacy skills).

#### **5.2.5 Sport and leisure**

To enhance health and wellbeing Medway Council is committed to provide good quality leisure facilities for all residents. The major refurbishment programme worth £1.9m at Strood Sports Centre is on schedule with work due to be completed in the spring. Several new and refurbished areas have been opened to customers, including a new reception, half of the new fitness suite, the improved swimming changing area and one of the four dance/aerobics studios.

Other Medway leisure facilities have undergone improvements in 2014/15. The fitness studio at Splashes got an extensive makeover in January 2015 and Hoo Sports Centre has had its reception refurbished and fitness studio extended. Enhancement of Medway Park including a new functional training area and multi-use room have helped increase footfall over the year and Medway Park welcomed its 800,000th visitor of 2014 in Q3 2014/15 a record level of attendance. The Strand reopened in May 2014 after undergoing a huge amount of work to improve the swimming pool, changing rooms, golf course and tennis courts.

King's Rochester Sports Centre (formally Stirling Sports Centre) opened with the Minister for Sport and Tourism in attendance. This groundbreaking partnership has resulted in £500,000 of investment into the facility, widening the offer to seven days a week, with 85% of its use being for the community.

Medway Council has undertaken several events this year to promote sporting equality. A disability sport open day took place in July 2014 at Medway Park with the Public Health Team on hand to provide free introductions on how to use specialist gym equipment at Medway Park. Various taster sessions and full classes took place on a wide range of sports. Medway Park staged the Wheelchair Rugby League four Nations Tournament in September 2014 and plans started in Q4 2014/15 to host the



Sitting Volleyball Invitational as part of the warm-up competitions for the 2016 Paralympics in Rio.

#### **5.2.6 Key Project – Rochester Riverside next phase**

Rochester Riverside is a flagship project in Medway Council's regeneration programme. The site comprises 32 hectares (74 acres) of Brownfield development land, stretching from Rochester Bridge to the north and Doust Way to the south. Whilst meeting the Council's objective of providing new homes and jobs for Medway, the development at Rochester Riverside will bring other benefits including a range of publicly accessible open spaces, retail and leisure facilities as well as improvements to the 'Gateways' between the River and Rochester High St.

Following the adoption of a new Masterplan for the site, the Council has commenced the procurement of a development partner to deliver the remaining phases of Rochester Riverside. A contract notice was issued in January 2015 and it is anticipated that a preferred developer will be appointed by the end of the year.

The council has recently installed an outdoor gym at Rochester Riverside as part of a wider scheme of improvement works to the Riverside Walk. Improvements including benches along the walk, temporary art installations, bins at the entrances and new interpretation boards are expected for deliverance in Summer 2015.

#### **5.2.7 Key Project – Chatham Town Centre – Growing Places Fund**

Phase 2 of Sun Pier Pontoon is underway and includes additional anti-climb measures and refurbishment to the Pier itself. The anti-climb and safety measures are in place with additional works on the entry/exit system ongoing with a completion date early in Q1 2015/16.

The Medway Street site detailed design for a potential car park extension is now complete and under review; work is expected to commence at the beginning of Q2 2015/16.

Phase 1 of the River Walk Works is nearing completion with the final detail of the new gun carriages to be delivered in Q1 2015/16. Phase 2 of the River Walk Works has begun with the resurfacing of Empire Reach to the Pier already complete. Completion is expected by the beginning of Q2 2015/16.

#### **5.2.8 Key Project – New Rochester Station**

Network Rail has now commenced construction of the new station and is progressing well with works. Construction of the building is on target to meet the planned opening date of 13 December 2015.

#### **5.2.9 Key Project – Eastgate House**

The major restoration of Eastgate House, Medway's Grade 1 listed 16th Century jewel commenced at the beginning of March 2015. The works include extensive internal renovations together with the installation of a lift to make the building more accessible. The start of the works has already created considerable media interest both regionally and nationally, with particular excitement surrounding the discovery of a 19th Century letter under the floorboards together with other artefacts.

### **5.2.10 Key Project – Rochester Airport**

The Council approved the master plan for the redevelopment of Rochester Airport in January 2014 and the Council's Planning Committee approved the current planning application to improve the airport's operational infrastructure and install a hard paved runway on 4 February 2015. The planning decision is being challenged via a Judicial Review process. The matter is likely to go to trial in the Autumn.

The airport operator, Rochester Airport Limited, is in the process of preparing the tender documentation to undertake the competition to appoint a contractor for the phase 1 development works. There has already been some early interest from private businesses in the availability of development sites within the airport master plan area.

### **5.2.11 Key Project – Sporting Legacy**

Medway Council continues to deliver on the sporting legacy from our successful 2012 Olympic programme. 2014/15 saw the delivery of the Medway Festival of Sport to promote healthy lifestyles and get the whole community active. This year's festival was the biggest ever, with 50 events held over 80 days of competition.

The festival kicked off on 17th May 2014 with the Medway Big Ride and was attended by 2,000 people. The Big Ride included a Sportive for experienced riders (219 attendees), a family ride with the Gills (in conjunction with Gillingham Football Club) and a mass participation ride finale. Other events in the 2014 Medway Festival of Sport included the Rugby league stampede (700 attendees), ParkSport (Golf) (160 attendees), The Medway Golf open (166 attendees) and ParkSport (Tennis) (160 attendees).

The Festival of Sport culminated in Rochester on 25th July 2014 with the Commonwealth Games themed Medway Mile. 3,650 people participated in the Mile and free activities for various sports were delivered across the day. A big screen was erected in the grounds of Rochester Castle for attendees to enjoy live action from the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

More than 130 primary school students took part in the qualifying event for places on the Medway Sporting Academy and the Mini Youth games celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary with 40 primary schools taking part in the athletics competition at Medway Park.

The annual Big Splash proved popular when it was held across Medway's sports centres in January 2015, with people of all ages and abilities taking to the water across the weekend in a range of activities. Activities included a Big Splash Extreme at The Strand and the event has led to new winter swimming sessions being introduced.

Medway Council is also now running a strong active senior sports programme in the community encouraging the older generation to continue to be active. Activities include Adult Ballet and Tap classes and 50+ Dance Classes provided across 6 venues in Medway to increase active engagement and accessibility for residents.

### 5.2.12 Key project: Enjoy Medway

Medway successfully delivered a number of diverse cultural and leisure events in 2014/15. Spring/Summer highlights included the English Festival (attendance 15,000, 99% satisfaction), Sweeps Festival (87,000 attendance, 99% satisfaction), Summer Dickens (60,000 attendance, 93% satisfaction), FUSE (20,000 attendance), Armed Forces Day (attendance 15,000, 95% satisfaction), The River Festival (6,500 attendance) and the Castle Concerts.

Autumn/Winter saw the launch of the Dickens Country Experience bus with 427 people taking part and most tours sold out in advance. The Dickensian Christmas and Rochester Christmas Markets were visited by a total of 328 tourist coaches compared to 297 in 2013. 40 of these were foreign coaches, a record number for this event. Direct user surveys were conducted at the events and reported 99% (518/522) of respondents answering very or fairly satisfied.

Chinese New Year was celebrated in Chatham High Street with approx 2,000 residents attending to watch celebrations. The Rochester Art Gallery has also held several Exhibitions throughout the year showing the work of recent graduates.

The Council adopted a new Cultural Strategy in October 2014 that aims to further establish Medway as a destination for culture, heritage, sports and tourism.

### 5.2.13 Key Project – RECREATE

The Community Interest Company (CIC) is responsible for the management of the creative workspace at Sun Pier House and regular meetings are held by the Council with the CIC to ensure that there is a good exchange of information and a coherent link with other creative venues in Chatham.

The Council has launched a start-up business support programme for creative start-ups. Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce ran the programme for six weeks at Sun Pier House, once a fortnight, and five evening events were held at Nucleus Arts Centre, where local artists were invited to talk about their own practice and share their experiences. The start-up course attracted 8 regular participants who aim to meet regularly in the future as a peer group.

The a-n is an Artist Information company that supports contemporary visual arts. In Q4 2014/15 there were three workshops held at Sun Pier House for established businesses to complete the a-n programme that started in Q3 2014/15. Of the 70 attendees across a total of six sessions, 16 went on to have 1-2-1 advice sessions with the speakers, either face to face or through Skype.

The Pop up shop "POP" remained open until 31 March 2015. In January 2015, it hosted the Medway Film Festival and in February 2015, a local photographer turned the space into a gallery and dark room for photograms. A celebration event was held in POP on 21st March, to mark its success. Almost 2,000 members of the public visited POP during the 12 months that it was open.

Three artists from Medway took part in two exhibitions in Lens, France during January and February. Their work was displayed in an arts centre and in restaurants. In March, students from the University of Kent and the Director of 51zero ran a 3-day film festival in Lens. Artists from the UK and France contributed their work to exhibitions, installations and screenings.

The two Graduates from the University of Kent who received a bursary to exhibit at Rochester Art Gallery launched their exhibition at the end of January. 65

people attended the launch preview and a further 56 people attended the two workshops that they ran as part of the installation.

#### **5.2.14 Key Project: Community Hub Development – Libraries**

The development of Community Hubs is the key strategic driver for libraries. The construction programme for the Strood Community Hub was completed and the Hub was opened for business on 2 March. A formal opening took place on 5 March by the Mayor of Medway as part of National Book Day. A full programme of events and activities have been put in place to support delivery and footfall has increased with figures for Strood Library being 12,391 in March 2014 and figures for Strood Community Hub being 14,979 in March 2015.

#### **5.2.15 Key Project – New council homes for Medway Council**

2014/15 saw the introduction of two projects to provide new Council homes for Medway. The first project is the provision of new homes on former HRA garage sites. Detailed planning permission has been granted on 10 former garage sites, which will provide 23 homes, ranging from 1-bedroom bungalows to a 5-bedroom family house. The construction contract was awarded in June 2014 and all the sites have now been handed to the contractor with work starting on 9 of the sites. The first 9 homes are now complete and occupied and the Council received positive media coverage of the official opening. The final homes in this phase are due for completion by the end of the summer 2015.

The second project is the development of the former Gillingham College site (Beatty Avenue) to provide 32 affordable bungalows to rent. Planning permission has been granted and the construction contract has been signed. Work on the ecology phase has started and it is anticipated that the contractor will be able to move onto the site later this summer with the anticipated completion date of spring 2017.

#### **5.2.16 Key Project – Highways Maintenance 2014/15**

In 2014/15 the Council invested in a programme of planned road maintenance schemes. There were 38 planned road-resurfacing sites and 37 have been completed on time and within budget. One site “The Street, Halling” has been carried forward into the 2015/16 programme and changed from Micro surfacing to conventional surfacing.

The Council invested in a programme of repairs and schemes to ensure pavements reach a good standard of maintenance. This was underpinned by an inspection programme based on the level of risk associated with the highway. Of the 21 planned pavement-resurfacing sites, 20 have been completed on time and within budget. In order to be cost effective and ensure minimal traffic disruption, the remaining site has now been included in the Chatham Waters Development and will be completed in Q1 2015/16. This robust programme has been funded by £2.4m secured from the council alongside a further £440k from the Department for Transport.

The road-marking programme and the programme to paint appropriate roundabouts directional arrows (black and white chevrons) have both been completed. Cyclic gully cleansing has been completed on all 22 wards, including two cycles of all A and B roads.

During the Winter Maintenance period a video giving general information on Medway Council's Winter Service was produced and advertised on You Tube and the Medway Council website. The Snow Warden pilot has been launched, which

involves volunteers clearing and treating footpaths in a section of pavement allocated to them during wintry conditions.

The pilot has been advertised through various forms of media including the Council's website and local papers. Information and training videos have also been produced on this subject and are available on the Medway Council website. Within the trial areas we now have ten Snow Wardens confirmed, with an additional two applications pending.

### 5.2.17 How our performance compares with other authorities

Medway ranks in the mid quartiles when compared with other South East unitary authorities for the following two indicators:

#### Number of households per 1,000 households living in temporary accommodation Q4 2014/15 (NI 156 Total arranged H/Holds in temporary accommodation)

Indicator	Period	Value (Number)	Value Households per 1,000 households	Unitary Rank	Unitary Average Households per 1,000 households	South East Unitary Authorities	South East Unitary Authorities Average Households per 1,000 households	Unitary Authorities with a household size +/- 20,000 of Medway UA	Unitary Authorities with a household size +/- 20,000 of Medway UA Average Households per 1,000 households
NI 156 Total arranged H/Holds in temporary accommodation	Q4 14/15	260	2.45	44 out of 50	1.04	5 out of 9	3.14	11 out of 13	1.84

Source: Temporary accommodation figures used for benchmarking have been taken from the DCLG website- (Interform Data Extractor: Data reported as final by local authorities for P1E201503 as at 19/05/2015).

#### NI 155 Gross number of affordable homes 2013/14

Indicator	Period	Medway (value)	Family Average (value)	Family Place	CIPFA Average (value)	CIPFA Rank	Unitary Average (value)	Unitary Rank	SE Average (value)	SE Unitary Authorities	Kent Authorities Average (value)	Kent Authorities Rank
NI 155 Gross number of affordable homes 2013/14	13/14	166	164	7 out of 14	174	8 out of 14	172	26 out of 55	170	7 out of 12	90	3 out of 13

Source: DCLG (formerly published as NI 155). Table 1008: Additional affordable dwellings provided by local authority area, Data is for 13/14

## 6. Value 1: Putting our customers at the centre of everything we do

### 6.1 Investors in people

Medway achieved Investors in People (IiP) Gold award in October 2014. This is an external accreditation which acknowledges that the most successful, customer-focused businesses are those that invest in their staff. It measured our approach to the support, development and recognition of staff together with arrangements for communications, management practice, social responsibility and employee benefits. It puts us in the top 7% of all employers in the Country.

### 6.2 Customer Perception

We use a variety of methods to find out what our customers think of our services. These include;

- Citizens Panel – Postal survey sent to over 2,000 residents on a quarterly basis
- Tracker – Bi-Annual telephone survey of around 400 residents.
- GovMetric - A customer feedback tool that gives customer ratings data from face-to-face (FTF), telephone and web channels.

#### 6.2.1 Tracker

81% respondents very/fairly satisfied with the way that Medway runs its services  
66% respondents think Medway keeps them well informed (September 2014)

Respondents very/fairly satisfied with the following universal services (Q4 2014/15):

- 96% Refuse collection
- 88% Street lighting
- 85% Recycling facilities
- 79% Household waste and recycling centres (tips)
- 79% Gritting & winter road service
- 73% Street cleaning
- 73% Pavements
- 70% How the council deals with graffiti
- 59% Removal of illegally dumped waste (fly tipping)
- 42% Road maintenance

#### 6.2.2 Citizen Panel

During the course of 2014/15 members of the Citizen's Panel have responded to four different surveys returning nearly 2900 questionnaires in that time. Our annual figures show that:

- 61.2% were very or fairly satisfied with the way the Council runs its services
- 11.5% were very satisfied.
- 24.8% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
- 9.3% were very or fairly dissatisfied

### 6.2.3 GovMetric

The following table shows that the percentage of respondents who have rated their service as 'good' has increased by 7 percentage points between 2013/14 and 2014/15 from 67% to 74%. The percentage who rated 'good' increased for face to face contact, while the percentage fell for phone and web.

Percentage of customers rating experience 'good'	2013/14	2014/15	Long Trend
Total number of responses	36,328	43,951	
All responses	67%	74%	↑
Phone	91%	89%	↓
Face to face users	64%	66%	↑
Web	52%	50%	↓

Source: GovMetric. Long trend - Comparison with same time period previous year.

#### How we compare with other authorities

We benchmark our performance against 70 other local authorities using GovMetric each month. During March 2015, our performance placed us in the following quartiles:

- Medium/top quartile – web and face to face
- Medium /low quartile – phone

### 6.3 Complaints

#### Complaints Quarterly Data 2014/15

Quarter	Complaints received	Complaints responded to	Responded to in time (10 days)	% responded to in time
Q1	415	346	262	75.72%
Q2	728	680	525	77.21%
Q3	407	427	313	73.30%
Q4	334	304	207	68.09%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>74.39%</b>

(NB Q2 volumes are untypical, reflecting a large number of complaints on one issue)

#### Service Comments

The Quarter 4 performance on the 10-day response indicator was 68.09%, which was disappointing as it was a further drop-off in the timeliness performance, and volumes for the quarter were generally lower.

The performance target for the year was set at 75%, and achievement is **74.39%**. Frustrating as it was to just undershoot the target, this still represents a 10% improvement on the 2013/14 annual performance of 64%.

The overall volume of complaints received were slightly up by 2.8% (from 1,832) in 2013/14, although it could be argued that the overall trend was slightly down if the large response to one particular issue in Q.2 (over 250) was discounted

Performance was better in the first half of the year. Overall, there has been a further improvement in reducing the number of older cases. There is a need to continue to build on that performance.

## 6.4 Delivering fair and responsive services

As a public service provider, we have a duty to have regard to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- to advance equality of opportunity
- to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. (Equality Act 2010)

Examples of how we are successfully meeting this duty are published in our annual equality report "Delivering fair and responsive services". This was published on our web site in January 2015.

We also have seven equality objectives which largely focus on three of our key priorities; Children and young people have the best start in life in Medway, Adults maintain their independence and live healthy lives and Safe, clean and green Medway.

We have 28 indicators which we use to monitor the performance against these objectives. Of the 17 indicators with targets, 12 (70%) were within target. (Appendix 2: Equality objectives: performance 2014/15)

We have achieved the following national equality standards which relate to the way we, as a fair employer treat our staff:

- Positive about Disabled People (Two Ticks) scheme
- Mindful Employer
- Stonewall Workplace Equality Index

## 7. Value 2: Giving value for money

### Phase 4 customer contact and administration

The last phase of the original Better for Less programme of change to customer contact and administration is well underway. This phase will deliver enhancements to customer contact and increased on line service delivery in parking, student services and registration. Administration activity supporting the remainder of children's services (except children's care) and mental health will be brought into the council's agreed business support and administration service (BASS).

Over its life time the BfL programme has delivered in excess of £15m cumulative savings, whilst protecting investment in frontline services. Customer satisfaction with both the council and customer service in particular has been sustained. The programme has enabled many staff across the council to further realise their potential with 30% of those who have had changes to role benefiting from promotion. The remaining part of the changes to customer contact and administration will be concluded in 2015/16.



Full council agreed, as part of budget setting, a capital project to renew the medway.gov.uk website. This is a fundamental building block for the council's aspiration to exploit the power of digital technology to improve customer experience and reduce costs. That has been identified as a key project within the 2015/16 council plan.

## **8. Risk management**

Risk management helps to deliver performance improvement and is at the core of decision-making, business planning, managing change and innovation. It is practised at both management and service delivery level, enabling the effective use of resources, and securing the assets of the organisation and its continued financial and organisational well-being.

The purpose of the Council Plan performance monitoring reports during the year is to enable managers and members to manage the key risks identified in delivering priorities.

## **9. Financial and legal implications**

There are no finance or legal implications arising from this report.

## **10. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- Consider the 2014/15 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/15.
- Make amendments to build on current achievements and deliver remedial action where required.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Council Plan Monitoring Quarter 4

Appendix 2 – Equality objectives

## **Lead officer contact**

Anthony Lewis, Corporate Performance and Intelligence Manager ext.2092

## **Background papers**

Refreshed Council Plan 2013/15