

**Medway Council**  
**Meeting of Regeneration, Community and Culture**  
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday, 28 January 2016**

**6.35pm to 10.00pm**

**Record of the meeting**

**Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee**

- Present:** Councillors: Carr (Chairman), Bhutia (Vice-Chairman), Brown-Reckless, Cooper, Etheridge, Griffin, Hicks, Iles, Johnson, Osborne, Stamp and Tejan
- Substitutes:** Councillors:  
Williams (Substitute for Saroy)
- In Attendance:** Richard Hicks, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture  
Stephen Baker, Acting Head of Waste Services  
Laura Caiels, Legal Advisor  
Councillor Rodney Chambers, OBE, Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships  
Councillor Howard Doe, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services  
Ruth Du-Lieu, Head of Integrated Transport  
Stephen Gaimster, Assistant Director, Housing and Regeneration  
Andy McGrath, Assistant Director, Front Line Services  
Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer

**707 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Saroy.

**708 Record of meeting**

The record of the meeting held on 10 December 2015 was signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Referring to Minute 554 (CCTV Control Centre) the Assistant Director Front Line Services confirmed that arrangements were in hand to set up the visit for Members to view the CCTV Control Centre and it was hoped that this could be tied in with a visit to Medway Police Station. Further details would be sent out in the next few weeks.

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Referring to Minute 556 – (Annual Jobs Fair), the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture advised that the information requested as to the breakdown of types of jobs secured at the fair would be supplied to the Member direct as soon as possible.

### **709 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances**

There were none.

### **710 Declarations of interests and whipping**

#### Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

#### Other interests

Councillor Stamp advised the Committee of an interest in agenda item 8 (Annual Review of Waste Contracts) by virtue of his employment with the Environment Agency but emphasised that he did not regulate any Veolia or FCC sites.

### **711 Petitions**

#### **Discussion:**

The Committee received a report setting out petitions received by the Council which fell within the remit of the Committee, including a summary of the responses sent to petitioners by officers.

The Committee was advised that one petitioner had requested that his petition be referred to this Committee and, in accordance with Minute 552 of the meeting held on 10 December 2015, Mr Kale had been invited to attend this meeting to discuss his petition asking for the provision of parking facilities after 6pm in Church Street, Chatham.

A Member advised that prior to the meeting he had received a message via the Member that originally presented Mr Kale's petition to the Council on 15 October 2015 advising that unfortunately Mr Kale would be unable to attend the meeting as he had not been able to arrange cover for his restaurant.

The Committee noted the officers' response sent to Mr Kale set out at paragraph 4.7 of the report and the Assistant Director Front Line Services advised that arrangements were in hand for the site visit at Church Street to be undertaken at the beginning of March. If any changes were proposed arising from the site visit, these would be the subject of consultation.

It was suggested that this response be conveyed to Mr Kale.

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**Decision:**

The Committee:

- a) noted the petition responses and appropriate officer actions set out in paragraph 3 of the report; and
- b) noted the response from officers concerning the petition requesting parking to be provided after 6pm in Church Street, Chatham and requested that this be conveyed to the petitioner.

**712 Attendance of the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services**

**Discussion:**

Members received an overview of progress on the areas within the terms of reference of this Committee and covered by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services as set out below:

- Events and festivals
- Greenspaces
- Heritage
- Leisure Services
- Libraries and Community Hubs
- Sporting Legacy
- Theatres and Arts
- Tourism.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Corporate Services responded to Members' questions and comments as follows:

- **The Pump House in Chatham Dockyard** - A Member sought information as to whether there were future plans for the Pump House in Chatham Dockyard. In response, the Portfolio Holder advised that this was currently being converted into a distillery.
- **The Medway Mile** – A Member commended this annual event and expressed disappointment that the 2015 Medway Mile had been cancelled. The Portfolio Holder commented that it had been unfortunate that the event had been cancelled as a result of inclement weather in 2015 but confirmed that subject to weather conditions, the event would take place in 2016.
- **Dickensian Christmas Festival**
  - **Coach parking** – In response to a question as to the number of coaches visiting Medway for the Dickensian Christmas Festival and whether sufficient coach parking was available, the Portfolio Holder advised that of the 290 coaches visiting Medway during the festival, 202 had pre-booked parking

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spaces. However, he reassured Members that sufficient parking facilities were available for coaches.

- **Festival Programme** – A Member commented upon the Festival programme distributed during the Festival and asked the Portfolio Holder if this had been successful in informing visitors of the attractions available. In response, the Portfolio Holder advised that in 2015 there had been a greater emphasis on digital advertising and this had proved successful by the record number of visitors attending the Festival. However, in addition to digital advertising, a four page programme had been available during the Festival providing visitors with the times and locations of activities. These programmes had been handed out by stewards and were available at the Visitor Information Centre.
- **Libraries and Community Hubs** – A Member referred to the increased number of visitors to the Community Hub in Strood since the building had opened at its new location in March 2015 and sought a breakdown of the services accessed at this Hub and others in Medway. He also asked if it was possible to quantify staff savings achieved and lessons learnt. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that a breakdown of services accessed could be supplied to the Member direct. In respect of staff savings he advised that this exercise had not been about cost savings, and wider efficiency savings had been made through the Better for Less Programme. The Portfolio Holder stressed that the provision of community hubs ensured there was a focal point within neighbourhoods to ensure the accessibility of services, providing facilities for local people to access services digitally. Referring to the Strood Community Hub, the Portfolio Holder advised that the increase in visitors to the Hub had also resulted in an increase in visitors accessing the library facilities which were incorporated within the Hub.
- **Culture, Design and Tourism Awards** - The Portfolio Holder thanked a Member for her congratulations on the success of the Culture, Design and Tourism Awards.
- **International Women’s Day – 8 March 2016** – A Member highlighted an event on International Women’s Day where there would be an opportunity to meet Olympians. The Portfolio Holder advised that he was supportive of all events that encouraged individuals to take part in sport.
- **Strand Leisure Park and works to Commodore’s Hard** – A Member referred to improvements which were continuing to make the Strand Leisure Park more welcoming to visitors and asked whether such improvements would include works to Commodore’s Hard. In response, the Portfolio Holder advised that he was fully aware of the issues at Commodore’s Hard, but stressed that the works required were expensive and the budget funding was not currently available for these to be undertaken.

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- **FUSE Festival** – In response to a comment that reference to the FUSE Festival had been omitted from the Committee report, the Portfolio Holder advised that it was not possible to mention all events within the report. However, referring to the FUSE festival he advised that this particular Festival marked a change in the way that Festivals were being organised in Medway. Whereas in the past the Council had organised the full Festival programme, the Cultural Partnership was seeking to ensure that events were now more community centred. He advised that the Arts Council had taken on responsibility for the delivery of FUSE and therefore the event would continue, but responsibility for the event lie elsewhere.

A Member sought an assurance that the FUSE Festival would continue and asked if any other festivals would be receiving external financial support. In response, the Portfolio Holder stated that he could not guarantee the future of any festival as this would depend upon the available budget each year. However, he was fully supportive of the extensive festival programme provided in Medway, and the valuable benefits of tourism that the festivals generated.

He advised that there was currently no direct financial support for other festivals but this was being investigated and a number of options were available.

- **Satisfaction levels with greenspaces** – A Member congratulated the Portfolio Holder on the retention of Green Flag Awards for seven greenspace sites in Medway but referred to the decrease in the satisfaction levels with greenspaces in Medway and asked the Portfolio Holder whether any action was planned to improve this. In response, the Portfolio Holder advised that the target levels relating to satisfaction levels were set very high and stated that the differences in the target and the levels achieved were only slight and could change daily. He reassured the Committee that the satisfaction levels were high when compared to those in surrounding local authorities.
- **Closure of Capstone Farm and Riverside Country Parks over the Christmas Holiday period** – A Member referred to the closure of the Capstone Farm and Riverside Country Parks over the Christmas period and suggested that consideration be given to opening the toilet facilities at these parks on Boxing Day in future years. In response, the Portfolio Holder advised that whilst this could be considered, the toilet facilities could not be open if they were not staffed as this would leave them at risk of vandalism.
- **Coach drop off and pick up points in Rochester** - A Member sought clarification as to whether there were plans to provide a drop off and pick up point for coaches in Rochester during large events so as to avoid congestion on Corporation Street and sought information as to where

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coaches would park when the former Civic Centre site was developed. In response, the Portfolio Holder provided an assurance that there were plans to provide a new coach park which would result from the redevelopment of land at the rear of Gas House Lane and such plans looked beyond the development of the former Civic Centre site. Referring to the drop off and pick up point in Rochester, the Portfolio Holder considered that this was very efficiently operated at the rear of the Visitor Information Centre.

- **Rochester Railway Station**
  - **Lack of staffing of the ticket office and provision of a closed-in waiting room** - In response to a Member's concern regarding lack of staffing of the ticket office and the lack of provision of a closed in waiting room at the new Rochester Railway Station, the Portfolio Holder advised that the Council did not have control over the operation of the Station and whilst it was possible to take these issues up with Network Rail and Southeastern, with regard to waiting rooms, he believed that the current trend was for the provision of partially closed off waiting areas rather than fully closed areas so Network Rail may not be willing to consider changing the facilities.
  - **Provision of pedestrian crossing facility outside the station** - A Member suggested that consideration be given to the provision of a pedestrian crossing close to the entrance/exit of the new Railway Station to enable pedestrians to cross Corporation Street. In response, the Portfolio Holder advised that he was aware that the existing pedestrian crossing was located away from the station entrance/exit and he would be discussing this with the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture to assess possible options.
- **Provision of wi-fi in libraries and community hubs** – A Member sought an assurance that the provision of wi-fi in libraries and community hubs would be available free of charge. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that this was the case.
- **Transfer of the Greenspaces Client Team to Medway NORSE** - A Member questioned whether the transfer would result in loss of staff. In response, the Portfolio Holder stated that he was not aware of any staff losses but that once the service had transferred, NORSE would assess the service to ensure it is delivering efficiently. The Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture confirmed that under these arrangements all the existing staff would transfer.
- **Ensuring that Council run events reach all sectors of the community** - A Member referred to the success in obtaining funding from Sport England's Community Sport Activation Fund for the development of a programme over a three year period to bring multi-

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sport sessions to a range of new park and open space settings in some of Medway's more deprived areas and asked if there was an equivalent fund for cultural activities. In response, the Portfolio Holder provided an assurance that the Council considered a diversity analysis for all events and as far as he was aware no-one was being disadvantaged. He advised that event stewards were available to help all visitors including those who had disabilities. He also drew attention to a number of events with an emphasis on diversity e.g. Events celebrating Chinese New Year.

- **Expansion of cultural activities in Gillingham and Rainham** - A Member referred to the number of events that were centred in or around Rochester and asked whether there were proposals to increase the number of cultural activities held in Gillingham and Rainham. The Portfolio Holder advised that the Council supported and encouraged a wide range of cultural activities across the whole of Medway.

The Portfolio Holder reminded the Committee that the Will Adams Festival was held in Gillingham each year and the English Festival at Riverside Country Park. In addition, the Sweeps Festival, although held in Rochester, attracted participants Country-wide.

- **Plans for the Guildhall Museum** – In response to a request for information as to the future plans for the Guildhall, the Portfolio Holder advised that the Friends of the Guildhall Museum was now firmly established and had secured funding to assist with the Museum's façade. Further extensive works were planned to increase the area at the rear of the Museum and glazing at the front, and funding bids were being progressed. He confirmed that visitor numbers at the Museum continued to rise and the Museum played an important role in portraying the story of Medway.
- **Eastgate House** – In response to a request for information on progress with the restoration of Eastgate House, the Portfolio Holder advised that whilst it was regrettable that the main contractor had gone into administration in 2015, a new contractor had been appointed and was on site. It was hoped that works would be completed by Summer 2017.
- **Broomhill Park Greenspace** – A Member sought clarification as to whether local developments would have an adverse effect upon the award of a Green Flag to Broomhill Park. The Portfolio Holder stated that developments close to the park would not have an effect upon the Park when assessed for a Green Flag, owing to the judging criteria used for Green Flag status.
- **Identifiable gaps in service provision** - A Member asked whether the Portfolio Holder could identify any gaps in service provision within his portfolio. In response, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that he was always wanting service improvements, but these were required to be

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considered against budgetary resources. One major development involved the move towards digitalisation which appealed to young people.

- **Future plans for The Brook Theatre** – A Member sought information on plans for the future of The Brook Theatre. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that works had been undertaken on the outer façade of The Brook Theatre, funded from the Local Growth Fund. He confirmed that this facility made a valuable contribution to the centre of Chatham as it housed a wide range of creative groups. He stated that there was a need to undertake works to the interior of the building and that this would be the subject of a future bid for funding, supported by the various creative groups that use the building.
- **23 Submarines** – A Member sought information on the 23 submarines project. The Portfolio Holder advised that it was considered that there were up to 23 individual submarines hidden in the estuary, each having their own story. A study was therefore currently being undertaken on this topic and an event planned for a future date.
- **Battle of Medway** – A Member asked for information on planned events to commemorate the Battle of Medway in 2017. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that this would be a national event and a number of possible attractions were currently being considered to mark this historic occasion. Possible events included a Royal visit and a visit from a Dutch Ship. It was intended that there would be a week of events with a thanksgiving service at Rochester Cathedral and a number of cultural partners would be actively involved.

### Decision:

The Committee thanked Councillor Doe for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions and it was noted that Councillor Doe had offered to consider the possibility of opening the toilet facilities at Capstone Farm Country Park and Riverside Country Park on Boxing Day.

### 713 Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships

#### Discussion:

Members received an overview of progress on the areas within the terms of reference of this Committee and covered by the Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships as set out below:

- Heritage Champion
- Inward Investment
- Medway Ambassador
- Strategic Partnerships

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- Strategic Regeneration and Planning.

The Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships responded to Members' questions and comments as follows:

- **External funding** – Members referred to the successful bids for external funding listed in paragraph 3.8 of the report and the bids submitted but awaiting outcomes listed in paragraph 3.9 and requested further information on the utilisation of funding received from the following:
  - Social Housing Mobility Fund
  - Domestic Abuse Fund
  - Building Better Opportunities.

The Portfolio Holder explained that if successful, the bid for funding for Building Better Opportunities would provide services which would create savings to statutory services as a result of preventative investment. He explained that an External Funding Group had been established to co-ordinate the development of funding bids and to ensure that they were aligned to Council priorities. Unfortunately, he was unable to provide full information on each of the funding bids as not all of them fell within his portfolio. The Assistant Director for Housing and Regeneration offered to respond to Members direct, and provide further information on the three funding bids identified.

- **The Big Screen at the Brook in Chatham** – A Member asked the Portfolio Holder whether he considered The Big Screen had been successful. In response, the Portfolio Holder stated that he did consider that this attraction had been successful as several national live broadcasts had been shown on the screen in the Summer and these had proved popular. Officers confirmed that members of staff from both the Regeneration and Events Teams had attended Big Screen events and had provided feedback that events had been well attended.
- **Tour of UTC site** – A Member noted that Medway Ambassadors had participated in a tour of the UTC site and requested whether arrangements could be made for Members to visit. The Portfolio Holder supported this request.
- **Medway Place Making Strategy** – A Member referred to the £10,000 funding received from the Coastal Community Team Fund and asked when bids would be submitted for the Coastal Revival Fund and how this would help vulnerable communities. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the £10,000 topped up a previous award and he outlined previous funding received for works at Rochester Riverside. Whilst it had not been possible to reach an agreement with Network Rail on the level of rents to be charged for use of the Railway Arches, that funding would now be used for development at Watermill Wharf in Strood.

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- **Rochester Riverside** – A Member referred to the proposed development of Rochester Riverside and requested what proposals were in place to ensure that the road network could cope with the additional traffic that would be generated from the development. In response, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that the works that had been undertaken in Corporation Street had been carried out pre-empting the developments at Rochester Riverside. He stated that traffic gridlocks were on the Strood side of Rochester Bridge and advised that funding of £9 million was available to address these issues, including enhancements at Strood Railway Station. The Council was also in discussion with the Rochester Bridge Trust on these issues. He added that significant investment had been made at four of the Railway Stations in Medway to promote greater use of public transport.
- **Extension of Broadband across Medway** – In response to a request for an update on the roll out of provision of hi-speed broadband across Medway, the Portfolio Holder advised that Kent County Council was leading on a project in conjunction with British Telecom to roll out the provision of broadband across rural communities and that this encompassed rural areas in Medway. Reports had been made to the Rural Liaison Committee updating Parish Councils on progress.
- **Chatham Waterfront River Walk** – A Member sought clarification as to the route of the Chatham Waterfront River Walk and the Portfolio Holder advised that the walk began at Gun Wharf and continued to Sun Pier. Stage two of the walk would be complete by the end of April 2016.
- **Local Growth Funding** - In response to a question about Local Growth Funding, the Portfolio Holder explained how the Local Growth Fund worked and confirmed that Medway had secured a significant level of Local Growth Funding through the Local Enterprise Partnership, including funding for works at Four Elms Hill and improvements to the access/egress at Medway City Estate.

The Assistant Director Front Line Services outlined in detail the phased work planned at Four Elms Hill and Medway City Estate.

### Decision:

The Committee:

- a) thanked the Portfolio Holder for attending the meeting and answering questions;
- b) requested officers to arrange a visit for Members to the UTC;
- c) noted that officers will provide further information to Members on the following funds:
  - Social Housing Mobility Fund
  - Domestic Abuse Fund
  - Building Better Opportunities

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- d) requested that future reports provide a greater clarity to the Portfolio Holder's responsibilities as they relate to this Committee.

**714 Annual Review of Waste Contracts**

**Discussion:**

The Acting Head of Waste Services presented a report setting out an update on the activity carried out by Veolia Environmental Services in the provision of waste and recycling collection, waste disposal and street cleansing services and FCC in the management of the three household waste recycling centres.

Melanie Tong from Veolia and Jon Mawyer from FCC were in attendance and undertook brief presentations to the Committee on their individual company's annual service reports.

During her presentation, Melanie Tong referred in particular to the delays that had occurred with the collection of waste over the Christmas/New Year period. She explained that the days upon which the Bank Holidays fell had affected collections in the rural zones of Medway on the Friday and in Lordswood on the Monday and that over the holiday period, Veolia had collected an additional 300 tonne of waste which equated to 30,000 additional bags of refuse. She advised that the delays were regrettable but confirmed that waste was collected as quickly as possible. She advised that across the country, many local authorities had not returned to normal collections until late January.

Melanie Tong and Jon Mawer then answered Members' questions as follows:

- **Use of collected waste** – In response to a question as to whether Veolia was able to use all waste or whether a proportion of it was being sold on outside of the UK, Melanie Tong advised that currently bulky waste was exported to Holland.
- **Possible review of the layout of Cuxton Recycling Centre** - A Member suggested that consideration be given to the layout of the recycling centre at Cuxton as customers who wished to dispose of an appliance were currently required to queue with those who wished to dispose of general rubbish. In response, Jon Mawer confirmed that this would be investigated to assess whether there were options available to alleviate this problem.
- **Street Cleansing October/September** – A Member questioned why the level of street cleansing tonnage had reduced considerably in September/October 2015 in comparison with the level collected in earlier years. In response, Melanie Tong advised that there was now a different reporting method to that in 2012/13 as materials were now separated and this had contributed to the difference in the figures reported.

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- **Christmas/New Year Collections** – A Member referred to the issue of the delays in the Christmas/New Year Collections and asked Veolia what lessons had been learnt in respect of communications. In response, Melanie Tong agreed that there was room for improvement in communicating information on collection dates both in Medway Matters and in day to day communications and she apologised for the problems experienced in 2015/16. She advised that other local authorities had experienced similar issues with the way that the Bank Holidays fell in 2015/16 and the increase in tonnage of waste to be collected. This had been compounded by the refuse vehicles having to queue for lengthy periods at the transfer station. She confirmed that refuse collectors had worked from 7am – 7pm to clear refuse and that the transfer station had remained open until 9pm to alleviate the problems. She reassured Members that it was not envisaged that similar problems would occur in 2016/17 as the Bank Holiday dates did not fall over a weekend.

Members expressed appreciation to the refuse collectors for the work that they had undertaken in ensuring that refuse was collected as quickly as possible.

- **Blue and White recycling bags** – In response to a question as to whether people were continuing to use both blue and white recycling bags, Melanie Tong confirmed that whilst the blue bags were continuing to be used, many people preferred to use the clear sacks rather than the white bags for non paper waste.
- **Recycling in flats** - A Member requested an update on the issue of availability of recycling in flats. In response, Melanie Tong confirmed that following a joint audit, a number of flats had been identified as being suitable for recycling collections. She agreed to provide a list of the flats where recycling would be introduced to elected Members. It was intended that where possible wheelie bins would be provided which would be clearly numbered with the block number or the name of the block on them.

It was noted that it was not possible for recycling facilities to be provided at all flatted developments owing to the limited space available.

A Member suggested that when residents move into new flatted developments the Council be proactive in ensuring that recycling facilities are available and known to residents.

- **Recycling rates** – A Member sought clarification on the recycling rates and how these were calculated. In response, the Acting Head of Waste advised that the Recycling Performance Indicator 192 was a nationally audited figure.

The Assistant Director Front Line Services drew attention to a number of factors that can affect the Council's recycling collection rates, such as

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seasonal green waste, individuals choosing to replace less items and companies offering to take appliances away when delivering new items.

- **Satisfaction levels at recycling centres** – In response to a question as to the satisfaction levels at recycling centres, the Acting Head of Waste confirmed that these figures were supplied by the recycling sites and were compiled by an independent company.

### Decision:

The Committee

- a) noted the content of the report including the annual service updates provided by Veolia and FCC in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report; and
- b) noted that Veolia will be providing a number of wheelie bins at flatted developments which will be identified by either the number or name of the block of flats.

## 715 Street Licensing - Placing Objects on the Highway

### Discussion:

The Integrated Transport Manager presented a report setting out proposals for an all inclusive policy for dealing with shop front displays, tables and chairs and A boards on the highway to ensure parity amongst traders and the public.

This issue had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting in November 2015, following which a draft policy had been the subject of consultation, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The Committee was advised that it was intended that Cabinet would consider and adopt the policy in full at its meeting in March and then a 12 month trial would be implemented in Chatham Town Centre from June 2016. At the conclusion of the 12 month trial, a review would take place and would inform a final policy document that would be implemented throughout Medway.

The Committee discussed the report noting that the proposed policy had been the subject of consultation from which 115 responses had been received, of which the majority had been in favour of the introduction of the policy, including responses from disabled individuals, the Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Chatham Town Centre Forum.

A Member drew attention to an issue with a trader blocking the pavement in Strood South Ward and the Assistant Director Front Line Services advised that this would not be covered by the current proposed policy which was intended to be introduced as a pilot in Chatham in the first instance. However, this could be a highway obstruction and he agreed to undertake investigations. Another Member also drew attention to a similar site in Rochester High Street and the Assistant Director Front Line Services agreed to also investigate this site.

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A Member requested that a further report be submitted to the Committee in the Summer of 2017 providing an update after the 12 month trial.

It was noted that the trial period would also enable officers to assess the effect that the policy would have upon events days held in other areas of Medway, should the policy be rolled out across Medway at a future date.

A Member suggested the following:

- When the policy is in place, officers walk down Chatham High Street and take enforcement action for each non complying shop keeper.
- The policy include wording to state that should approval be granted for a shop front display, tables and chairs and/or A boards, this does not give permitted rights to have future automatic approvals
- The wording of 2 (c) (i), 3 (b) (v) and 5 (b) (viii) be clarified so as to be consistent.
- Consideration be given to the £40 enforcement fee being an escalating scale for repeat offenders.

### **Decision:**

The Committee:

- a) noted the policy document intended to cover the whole of Medway and the proposed pilot for Chatham Town Centre scheduled to begin in June 2016 pending approval by Cabinet and Full Council and made the following suggested changes to the policy document:
  - The policy include wording to state that should approval be granted for a shop front display, tables and chairs and/or A boards, this does not give permitted rights to have future automatic approvals
  - The wording of 2 (c) (i), 3 (b) (v) and 5 (b) (viii) be clarified so as to be consistent.
  - consideration be given to the £40 enforcement fee being an escalating scale for repeat offenders.
- b) requested that a further report be submitted to this Committee in the Summer of 2017 on the outcome of the pilot scheme;
- c) noted that the Assistant Director Front Line Services will investigate those sites identified by Members in Strood South and Rochester High Street to assess whether their displays are causing an obstruction to the highway.
- d) noted the suggestion that when the policy is in place, officers walk down Chatham High Street and take enforcement action for each non complying shop keeper.

**716 Cultural Activities**

**Discussion:**

The Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture outlined progress achieved to date against Medway's Cultural Strategy 2014 – 2019.

The Committee discussed the progress achieved to date with particular reference to the following:

- The commemoration of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dutch in the River Medway and events planned for 2017
- A new HMS Chatham
- Medway Ambassadors
- The relocation of Archives to the former Strood Library Building in Bryant Road, Strood and the wider use of the premises for community engagement.
- Support for the Medway Queen
- The route of the Open Top Bus
- Increasing tourism information at the new Rochester Railway Station and other stations in Medway.

The Committee thanked the Director for his presentation.

**Decision:**

The Committee endorsed the progress made thus far in delivering Medway's Cultural Strategy 2014 – 2019.

**717 Work Programme**

**Discussion:**

The Democratic Services Officer reported upon the Committee's work programme.

**Decision:**

The Committee noted the current work programme.

**Chairman**

**Date:**

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**Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer**

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