

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 AUGUST 2016

ATTENDANCE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FRONT LINE SERVICES

Report from: Portfolio Holder for Front Line Service, Councillor
Filmer

Summary

This report sets out progress made within the areas covered by the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services which fall within the remit of this Committee.

1. **BACKGROUND**

1.1 The areas within the terms of reference of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered by the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services are:

- Local Growth Fund transport projects
- Parking
- Public transport
- Roads
- Street Cleaning and waste collection/recycling/waste disposal
- Traffic management
- Transport Strategy
- Travel Safety

1.2 Achievements for 2015/16 are detailed by services area below.

2. **HIGHWAYS**

2.1 **Highway Adoptions & Capital Projects**

2.1.1 The Highway Adoptions Team continues to work with Developers to ensure their works to construct new Highway Infrastructure are within the Medway Standard requirements, including commuted sum payments and in accordance with Section 38 & Section 278 of The Highway Act 1980.

2.1.2 A total of 13 Section 38 Agreements (8 of which relate to St Mary's Island) and 4 Section 278 Agreements have been progressed by the Highway Adoption Team since the last reporting cycle. Key Highway Adoptions progressed since the last reporting cycle includes:

- St Mary's Island Sectors 1 & 5
- Peters Village (Halling) in partnership with Kent County Council.
- Temple Waterfront Phase 1
- Former Mid Kent College site (Maidstone Road)

2.1.3 The Highway Capital Projects Team deliver both design and build and design only Highway Projects that are principally funded through the Local Transport Plan (LTP 3), Local Growth Fund (LGF), and S106 Highway Schemes. Key Highway Capital Projects delivered since the last reporting cycle includes:

- Corys Road Multi-Storey Car Park - Access Road
- Corporation Street Car Park
- Pier Chambers Regeneration
- Wainscott Road new footpath
- Green Street Pedestrian Access Improvements – Member funded
- Average speed cameras (civils) for Medway tunnel
- Chatham Regeneration (phases 1 – 3)

2.1.4 The Highways Capital Projects Team is currently delivering the Cycling Action Plan (LGF Scheme) with two new routes currently under construction through Gillingham Business Park and Beechings Way.

2.2 Highways Reactive Maintenance

2.2.1 The Highway Reactive Maintenance Team is responsible for Highway Inspections, Street lighting, Asset Management and Public Rights of Way. Key achievements since the last reporting cycle are set out below.

2.3 Highway Inspections & Funding

2.3.1 The Highway Inspections Team continue to complete 100% of targeted safety inspections on time, giving an effective regime of inspection, assessment and the recording of defects/condition. This ensures the safety of all network users and along with responding to customer enquiries, discharges the Council's Statutory Duty, under Section 41 of the Highways Act, whilst forming a Section 58 defence against third party claims. The most recent RAC poll data, from 2014/15, showed that only 2% of claims, against Medway Council, were successful.

2.3.2 In the last 12 months, the Highway Inspectors have:-

- a. Raised 4281 task orders for safety repairs across the network. This is in response to the proactive rolling programme of safety inspections and in response to enquiries from members of the public.
- b. Received and dealt with 4245 requests for service, from customers, all within the set timescales.
- c. Repaired 890 defects, on the network, themselves, using Viafix (a permanent flexible bitumen material), saving the cost of calling out the term contractor for an emergency repair.

2.3.3 Secured funding of £135,000 has been received from the Pothole Action Fund and £143,000 from the Incentive Fund. A programme of works, for large patching, is currently being identified and will be delivered in this financial year. This will improve the condition of the network and help prevent these areas from deteriorating.

2.3.4 For the first quarter of 2016/17 the Council has recovered approximately £14,000, from third parties, who damaged street furniture across the network. Damage to furniture, by vehicular accident, is common and the cost of replacement can be high and if the damage cannot be attributed to a third party, replacement has to be funded from existing highway budgets, so this represents a good recovery rate.

2.4 Street Lighting

2.4.1 The target for the percentage of street lamps, in light, at any one time is 99%. This was exceeded every month of 2015/16 and for the first 3 months of this financial year. The 2015 National Highways and Transportation survey showed that in terms of satisfaction, Medway Street Lighting was ranked 6 out of 43 participating Unitary Authorities.

2.5 Public Rights Of Way

2.5.1 The Public Rights of Way team continue to work with a Volunteer group, on maintaining the right of way network. The Volunteer group, Medway Towns Footpath Group, undertake work that equates to 12 hours per week in the winter months and 14 hours per week in the summer months. Their weekly contribution is only stopped in time of inclement weather.

2.6 Planned Maintenance

2.6.1 The Highway Planned Maintenance Team is responsible for carriageway and footpath resurfacing, winter gritting, drainage, highway structures and the Medway Tunnel. Key achievements since the last reporting cycle are set out below.

2.7 Resurfacing & White Lining Programme

2.7.1 This has been delivered to programme and budget with 14 major carriageway schemes (totally 4,700 linear metres), and 9 intermediate carriageway schemes. Also delivered to programme and budget were 10 major pavement schemes (totally 2,450 linear metres) and 15 immediate pavement schemes.

2.7.2 White lining renewal was completed in the following Wards: Walderslade, Peninsula (towns only), Halling and Medway City Estate and a total of 498 Road Sign Orders were also completed

2.8 Winter Gritting Programme

2.8.1 The term maintenance contractor has carried out a lower than normal number of salting runs due to the mild winter. There were 64 salting runs in total and 1,512 tonnes of salt use compared to the last reporting cycle of 92 salting runs and 2,161 tonnes of salt used.

2.8.2 The Snow Wardens programme following the successful pilot has been extended to all Council Wards.

2.9 Drainage

2.9.1 Of the 33,867 gullies scheduled to be cleaned, 22,729 were actually cleaned due to issues such as parked vehicles preventing access and all A & B road gullies were cleaned twice during this period. In addition, 8 soakaways were cleaned and 4 new soakaways constructed on the Highway Network.

2.10 Medway Tunnel

2.10.1 Medway Tunnel quarterly overnight closures for maintenance have been delivered to programme and an additional tunnel closure for the installation of Average Speed Cameras was also undertaken in June. The Structural Principal Inspection of the Tunnel has commenced and will be completed during the September 2016 closure.

2.10.2 The Medway Tunnel Emergency Plan was updated and revised in December 2015. A table top exercise was carried out in April 2016 to test the emergency plan and to create a harmonised response with all emergency organisations responding to an emergency within the tunnel. Options to carry out a live emergency exercise are currently being identified for implementation.

2.10.3 Planned improvements to the Medway Tunnel that are being developed for funding approval are LED Lighting, additional fire detection & suppressant system, renewal of Gatic Covers (large man holes) and replacement of the Emergency Cross Passage Escape doors.

2.11 Highway Structures

2.11.1 The Council has delivered an ongoing structural inspections programme (every 2 years) of Medway Council owned Highway Structures. Key work streams being taken forward are;

- a. Green Street Footbridge – A new bridge has been commissioned and ongoing dialogue with Network Rail to secure consents for works to be completed this financial year.
- b. Old Road Retaining Wall – Following a general inspection the retaining wall was identified as in need of urgent repair. The old wall was taken down, soil nails installed and a concrete retaining wall was constructed. The wall was brick faced and a new parapet wall with trief kerbing was constructed adjacent to the highway.
- c. Pentagon Road Bridge & Service Road – The principal bridge inspection recommended the renewal of the surfacing and the bridge joints. The road bridge has been resurfaced and old joints removed with new joints shortly to be installed.
- d. John Hawkins Retaining Wall Works were completed last year which included the rebuild of the top section wall, with brick facing to one side and a render finish to the other.

3. PARKING ENFORCEMENT

3.1 Performance & Accreditation

- 3.1.1 In 2015 /2016 Parking Services achieved its Income Target of £5,922,775 that is broken down into £3,624,320 Pay & Display Income, £917,093 Permit Income and £1,381,362 Penalty Charge Notice Income. Benchmarking data shows that Medway Council remains one of the lowest parking charging authorities within Kent.
- 3.1.2 The British Parking Association Safer Parking Scheme run by Park Mark is a national standard for UK Car Parks that have low crime and measures in place to ensure the safety of people and vehicles. A Park Mark is awarded to each car park that achieves the standard. This year the number of car parks awarded accreditation was 44 out of 55 Car Parks representing an increase of 2 from the last reporting cycle.
- 3.1.3 EPC (European Parking Collections) who provides a service to enable collection for Parking Charge Notices issued to foreign vehicles is now operational and since the last reporting cycle the service has collected £2,235 in Penalty Charge Notices issued.

3.2 Service Improvements

- 3.2.1 Cashless parking “Pay by Phone” has been trialled for the last two years in two key car parks (Blue Boar Lane and Corporation Street (both in Rochester). The short trend indicates that there is a channel shift to “Pay by Phone” with over 6,048 registered users representing an increase of 3,677 since the last reporting cycle. As part of the Digital Transformation Programmes cashless parking is to be implemented across Medway Council Car Parks along with an electronic permitting scheme.
- 3.2.2 Parking Services are migrating to a new (android) handheld system this financial year for the issuing of Parking Charge Notices. Field trials of the new system show that productivity gains will be achieved due to a reduction in entry data requirements (due to field data configuration improvements) and improved reliability via a reduction in system freezes.
- 3.2.3 The opening of the new Multi Storey Car Park in Rochester was brought forward to the 29 April 2016 to meet parking demand for the Sweeps Festival. The performance of the car-park is being monitored on a monthly basis and whilst current occupation is low, occupancy is expected to increase with the proposed closure of Gas House Road Car Park. Following the provision of the new Multi Storey Car Park in Rochester, Corporation Street Car Park has been changed to a short-stay car-park.
- 3.2.4 Cabinet has approved a review of Car-Parks within Chatham to support the Council’s Regeneration Ambitions and meet Housing Growth Targets. Whiffens Avenue, Queen Street and Luton Road Shoppers Car Parks have all been identified for re-development. It is proposed that the additional floors that are currently closed within Market Hall car park be re-opened to replace any parking provisions that are lost via the disposal of these sites.

4. WASTE SERVICES

4.1 Waste Collection and Disposal

4.1.1 The audited recycling rate for 2015/16 will not be released by Defra until November but is expected to be published as 42.6%. The level of garden waste arising can affect this rate dramatically and there was nearly 1,000 tonnes less garden waste compared to the year before due to a dryer summer.

4.1.2 Aside from the fluctuations in garden waste, overall the level of waste is increasing as the most recent period of recession eases and Medway's population increases. A tonnage comparison between 2014/15 and 2015/16 demonstrates this:

<i>Kerbside-collected tonnes</i>	2014/15	2015/16	Increase
Kerbside black sack waste	54,824	56,866	3.7%
Kerbside recycling: paper, cans, glass & plastic	18,589	18,825	1.3%
HWRC Wood waste (95% recycled)	5,419	5,751	6.1%

4.1.3 The public satisfaction level for refuse and recycling collections is now measured by Citizen Panel returns as opposed to the former Tracker surveys. Results for 2015/16 will not be available until Quarter 2, 2016/17.

4.1.4 With a strong partnership approach, the disposal contractor, Veolia, continues to seek new and innovative ways to recover energy from waste rather than sending it to expensive landfill. During 2015/16, Veolia exceeded their contracted landfill diversion target saving the authority over £30k in landfill tax

4.2 Communication and public engagement

4.2.1 For every tonne of material that avoids a black sack, Medway saves between £50 and £100. By providing a convenient and comprehensive weekly kerbside collection of all materials, Medway has dismantled many of the barriers residents had previously highlighted that prevented them recycling. The Waste Development Team has continued a programme of public engagement that encourages residents to reduce, reuse and recycle.

4.2.2 In 2015/16, a combination of communication techniques were used to raise recycling awareness including:

- 10 articles/adverts in Medway Matters ;
- 2 x articles in Medway Messenger one being the front page promoting Clean for the Queen;
- Last year's short video is still broadcasted on the Big Screen;
- Food waste feedback questionnaire distributed through caddy liner sales at libraries
- 19 x roadshows in partnership with Community Safety plus 6 x educational presentations
- Social Media Twitter account created @MedwayRecycles;
- Christmas collection posters put up in over 200 locations borough wide
- Double sided recycling leaflet inserted into 112,540 council tax bills; and
- adverts run on the Medway.gov.uk carousel

4.3 Food waste collections

- 4.3.1 UK homes throw away over 7 million tonnes of food waste annually. In Medway this will equate to approximately 23,000 tonnes of food waste which can be composted. Around £40 is saved for every tonne of food waste collected by the kerbside organics service as opposed to the refuse service.
- 4.3.2 Where the physical nature of the street allows such a collection, all households now have access to food waste collections. Those that cannot accommodate a wheeled bin have been given (or offered) a smaller 23L food bin. Achieving this milestone successfully closes the original project plan for introducing weekly recycling services.
- 4.3.3 Caddy liners being sold at affordable prices at the libraries continues to be popular with residents; £1.50 per roll of 26 liners. In 2015-16 the Council sold 15,000 rolls and it is estimated that this helped divert 586 tonne of food from black sacks into brown bins, saving up to £28k in disposal costs.
- 4.3.4 In October a 'Buy One Get One Free' promotion was run which saw 710 liners sold within a week. 147% more than the weekly average.

4.4 Waste Electric & Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

- 4.4.1 A dramatic drop in the value of some recyclables together with changes in the way the UK enact the EU WEEE Directive meant that Medway's WEEE Producer Compliance Scheme partner could no longer sustain their free WEEE collection service to Medway's residents. The collection of large WEEE items, such as fridges and washing machines, reverted to the bulky collection service in December
- 4.4.2 All WEEE, large and small, continues to be accepted at all 3 household waste & recycling centres. Small appliances, such as broken hairdryers, can also still be deposited in one of the 4 small pink WEEE banks located within the Borough.

4.5 Bulky waste collections

- 4.5.1 As a result of the free WEEE collections having ceased, the number of bulky waste collection requests increased by over 400 per month - the vast majority being free of charge. A flat charge of £20 per 3x bulky items was introduced on 1 April 2016.
- 4.5.2 Waste Services continue to promote the reuse of furniture through its third sector and contracted partners.

4.6 Bring site collections

- 4.6.1 Despite a significant drop in the value of used clothing, Medway continues to receive a steady income from textiles collected at bring sites, generating £15,000 income last year and diverting 50 tonnes of waste from disposal.

4.6.2 Apart from the usual glass, cans, and paper banks, the Council's small WEEE, 'TetraPak' (carton recycling), textiles, books and CD banks have helped divert 167 tonnes from disposal in 2015/16.

4.7 Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

4.7.1 Despite unfavourable trading conditions for some recyclables, FCC, the Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Company, continues to perform well and break new ground.

4.7.2 Since its launch in June 2014, the award winning bicycle reuse scheme has gone from strength to strength. FCC's 4-way partnership with the Council, the Prison Service and the charity, Abacus, makes sure that cycles dumped at Medway's three sites are refurbished and resold. The project has seen over 500 discarded and broken bicycles being repaired or used for spares by inmates at HMP Rochester. The bicycles are then sold at affordable prices through West Kent Housing's 'Abacus' reuse shops to new owners at an average price of £30.

4.7.3 Residents depositing no-longer-loved furniture and electrical items are also signposted to reuse containers where they either get resold to those financially hard-pressed or at a local auction house. This reduced landfill by 58 tonnes last year

4.7.4 Landfill diversion and recycling performance has continued to improve under the current contract held by FCC. Since FCC took over running the three sites in 2010, they have reduced the amount sent to landfill by 40% and increased recycling. Together, during 2015/16, these sites achieved an average 62% recycling rate.

4.7.5 Customer satisfaction amongst those that visit the sites remains extremely high. Bi-annual independent customer surveys recorded 96% overall satisfaction for 2015/16.

4.8 Contract monitoring

4.8.1 Waste Services' monitoring officers have carried out 3559 street cleansing inspections, 3816 refuse, recycling and organic collection inspections and 1325 litter and canine bin inspections to ensure that the contractor has met our standards and provided a good level of service.

4.8.2 61 community clean-ups were supported during 2015/2016 by providing equipment and disposal of the waste. During March, Medway Council took part in the Clean for The Queen campaign, launched by Country Life magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to clear up Britain in time for The Queen's 90th birthday in 2016. Waste Services, Safer Communities, Medway housing and the waste contractor Veolia worked with community groups and schools to carry out 21 volunteer clean ups of the local area during the campaign.

4.8.3 Contract monitoring officers carried out a customer satisfaction survey of assisted collection customers. This resulted in 100 % overall satisfaction with the service they received and enabled an up to date audit of residents still requiring the provision, helping keep the cost of it to a minimum.

- 4.8.4 The canine and litter bin provision has been reviewed with some single, adjacent bins being changed to a dual use one, accepting both canine and litter waste. This has reduced the number of bins and the annual cost of emptying them whilst the same level of service has been maintained.
- 4.8.5 Waste Services are actively involved in the Digital Transformation Project. This project aims to improve the customer journey when accessing services digitally. The bulky waste collection service is one of the first services that will be transformed with the objective of promoting online bookings by making the process easier to do.

4.9 Operational services (pest control, graffiti removal and sign shop)

- 4.9.1 The in-house graffiti team continue to remove graffiti across the borough in a timely manner achieving 100 % of sites surveyed being free from graffiti. The Team remove graffiti, carry out the bin washing programme for approximately 1200 waste services litter/canine bins and jet wash highway areas that have become stained.
- 4.9.2 The Council's in-house sign shop production and installation service continues to support the needs of other internal departments providing a cost efficient and timely services.
- 4.9.3 Pest Control and Graffiti removal services continued to hit all service targets, providing a valuable, highly regarded service to residents and the wider community.

5. INTEGRATED TRANSPORT

- 5.1.1 Integrated Transport Service has delivered a range of schemes and interventions under the Local Transport Plan (LTP) to improve safety and reduce congestion on Medway's road network. The service also manages the Council's responsibilities as the Traffic Authority as well as managing all public transport and permitting work on the highway, maintaining assets such as the Chatham Waterfront Bus Station, traffic signals, signs and electronic messaging, and operating the Council's Traffic Operations Room, a vital tool for ensuring Medway highway network operates as efficiently as possible.

5.2 Public and Sustainable Transport

- 5.2.1 The Villager community bus service provides a valuable transport outlet for elderly and disabled residents who live in more rural isolated areas of Medway. The service delivers a range of benefits ensuring users remain active in the wider community. The service was previously funded by a government grant. Unfortunately the grant funding expired in March 2016. However, officers worked closely with colleagues at Medway Norse to devise an alternative delivery model for the service. The project proved a success and Norse took over provision of the Villager service in April 2016.
- 5.2.2 Changes to Arriva bus services came into effect mid July 2015. Council officers worked closely with Arriva to address concerns with the original proposed changes to ensure residents still received a good level of service. A

publicity campaign for the service updates included road shows, a new area wide bus map, updates to websites, Real Time Info screen updates and announcements at the bus station.

5.2.3 A range of improvements to bus stop facilities were implemented during the year including Princes Avenue / Prince Park bus stops, A226 Gravesend road bus stops, Woodlands Road bus stops, and a general scheme of minor improvement works across a wide range of stops across Medway. This was complemented by a larger scheme of pedestrian dropped kerb schemes successfully completed across the year.

5.2.4 An improved photo card system was successfully implemented for the Yellow School Bus service, along with an improved internal management system.

5.3 Parking Strategy

5.3.4 Approximately 550 disabled parking bays / 'Keep Clear' requests have been successfully processed for the year, and over 50 parking Traffic Regulation Order implemented during the year.

5.3.5 Parking Strategy remains a high demand but successfully operating part of the service, averaging every week 22 Confirm enquiries, 60 telephone enquiries, 50 email enquiries, and 10 letter enquiries.

5.3.6 In 2016/17 Parking Strategy officers will be concentrating on reviewing and implementing Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ's) in Medway. Officers will also be planning and project managing the operation of the Corporation Street car park in time for the winter Rochester Dickens festival.

5.4 Traffic Management

5.4.1 In 2015/16 officers have processed:

- 107 Scaffolding Applications
- 610 Skip Applications
- 9,458 roadworks applications, undertaking 8,352 streetworks Inspections. This resulted in 286 Defects Notice being issued, and 60 Fixed Penalty Charges being issued.
- 82 offences were brought against Utility Companies for over running roadworks.

5.4.2 Officers also successfully managed a major roadworks programme in 2015/16 from BT Openreach for the installation of high speed broadband, and mains replacements from Southern Water and Southern Gas Networks, ensuring that the impact on journey times across Medway was kept to the absolute minimum.

5.4.3 Officers continued with the successful programme of streetworks coring to establish adequate reinstatement compliance and ensure roadworks are carried out to the required standard.

5.4.4 Officers have commenced work on the implementation of the Streetworks Permit Scheme for Medway. The scheme, which has a project go live date of January 2017, will hold organisations undertaking roadworks more

accountable and will reduce the impact roadworks have on journey times in Medway.

- 5.4.5 A range of traffic management improvement schemes were successfully completed including, Hoath Way Sign rationalisation scheme, Rochester Station signing improvements and alteration. The Corporation Street car park was open in time for the winter Rochester Dickens festival.
- 5.4.6 Medway officers have been working alongside Highways England on a DfT project to consider a second road crossing in the lower Thames area. In March this year officers led on Medway's response to the formal consultation. A final decision is expected later in 2016.
- 5.4.7 Officers successfully implemented a trial 'Tables & Chairs' licencing policy in Chatham High Street to improve the management of furniture and items on Medway's high streets. Officers will continue to monitor the trial and propose rolling out the policy Medway wide later in the year.
- 5.4.8 To future proof developments in Medway and better analyse the impact developments will have on Medway's highway infrastructure and journey times, officers have commenced work on commissioning a new traffic model for Medway, showing current levels of traffic. The model will also provide officers with the ability to 'plug in' future proposals to see the effect on future traffic flows.

5.5 Traffic Signal Improvement

The following improvements have been completed:

- Installation of new traffic signals on westbound approach to Medway Tunnel.
- Maritime Way signal safety and timing improvements.
- Minor capacity improvements to Union Street area.
- Provision of new communications for Chatham Waters now installed.
- Trial of new detection systems on Woodlands Road Rail Bridge for future cost saving options. The project will continue at Woodlands Road / Cornwallis Avenue into 2016/17.
- Improvements to the Wainscott Bypass communications to Variable Message Signs (VMS).
- Rectification of key faults at traffic signal junctions by three previous development projects.
- Continued conversions of pedestrian crossings to the improved style and legally required near sided 'puffin' design; feedback from Disability Awareness Forum to changes has been very positive.
- Consultation on proposed traffic signal junction of A228/Bush Road completed.

5.6 Traffic Management Orders

Officers have processed:

- 106 temporary Traffic Orders were produced to support works and events on the highway.
- 48 Permanent Traffic orders were produced.

5.7 Traffic Management - Events and Incidents

- Support has been provided for 18 major events including Dickensian Christmas, Dickens Festival, Sweeps festival, The Big Ride, Medway Mile, Queens Birthday street parties, plus numerous requests for advice regarding minor events and events queries from the public.
- In excess of 50 incidents have been successfully managed by officers utilising all of the tools available in the Traffic Operations Room to ensure the incidents had minimal impact on traffic flows and journey times.
- Dedicated support provided to the construction of developments, including the successful management of numerous abnormal load movements through Medway.
- Integral part of Medway's emergency response during the year, including support provided to Medway Tunnel planning and supporting the Police and Emergency services with Emergency planning for major incidents such as the Medway Tunnel, Comah sites and Operation Overflow.
- Continued close liaison with public transport services and utility companies to minimise road works on the network.
- Successful coordination of the Medway road network with KCC and Highways England, including support for Operation Stack, consultation on the proposed new river crossing to Essex, and additional lorry parking initiatives

5.8 Road Safety (All subsequent paragraph numbering needs to be changed)

5.8.1 75 Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) casualties were recorded in Medway during calendar year 2015, an increase of 18 compared to 2014. The number of fatal collisions remains unchanged with 1 being recorded during 2015 the same as 2014. The increase recorded has therefore been in serious injuries. 75 KSI's is still within target to reduce KSI's by 33% by 2020.

5.8.2 A number of successful road safety interventions were completed in 2015/16:

- Canterbury Street, Gillingham, near Byron Road – Zebra crossing improvement on school route.
- Princes Avenue, Walderslade, Chatham – Series of route improvements including junction improvement, refuge islands, and a lower speed limit.
- Wainscott Road, Wainscott - Introduction of new length of footway, parking restrictions, and supporting Safer Routes to School.
- The Street, High Halstow – Improved pedestrian crossing facility on school route.
- Gun Lane, Strood – Converted existing refuge island to Zebra crossing.
- Pump Lane (Lower), Rainham - Introduction of a lower speed limit.

5.8.3 Core safety camera sites maintained and successful tender process completed in partnership with Kent County Council for upgrade of wet film cameras to digital.

5.9 Safer Journeys Initiatives

5.9.1 Seatbelt Sled education delivery - 35 Medway school bookings accepted to date, with approximately 2,100 pupils scheduled to participate.

- 5.9.2 Road Safety education has been delivered to a total of 5,264 primary school children in Medway between September 2015 and March 2016, a 15.6% increase compared to the previous year.
- 5.9.3 Scooter Skills delivered to 445 primary school children since September 2015, with further sessions planned.
- 5.9.4 School Crossing Patrol service - 33 recognised sites now operating throughout Medway.
- 5.9.5 The Council's Safer Journeys Team worked closely with schools in Medway in delivering Bikeability training. There are three associated levels, each designed to improve practical cycling skills. Levels 1, 2 and 3 take trainees from the basics of balance and control, all the way to planning and making an independent journey on busier roads. In 2015/16, 1,373 children in Medway received Bikeability Level 1 and 2 courses.
- 5.9.6 2,730 secondary school students in Medway received road safety theatre in education during 2015/16, including 'Passenger', 'Speak Up' and 'A Licence to Kill?' The latter production received a High Sheriff of Kent Award in recognition of this partnership work and was shortlisted for a National Young Driver Road Safety Award.
- 5.9.7 Walking Bus – Up to the end of March 2016, the number of children participating on the Walking Bus initiative in Medway is 628. There are a total of 50 active Walking Bus routes operating within Medway. An additional 117 classes in Medway have signed up to the Walk on Wednesday 'WOW' and Active Bug initiatives in 2015/16, with approximately 3,500 children from Medway taking part, a 19.4% increase in the number of classes participating compared to the previous academic year.
- 5.9.8 Active travel initiatives have significantly reduced the number of school journeys by car in Medway with 40,802 car journey savings in Medway out of a possible 170,374 across Kent. Medway Council received a Green Apple Environmental Award at the KM Partnership Awards in February 2016 for its partnership commitment towards promoting walk to school schemes.
- 5.9.9 Road Safety Campaigns – Think Bike, Global Road Safety Week, Share the Roads, Child Seat Clinic, Drink / Drug Drive awareness and development of an under 5's road safety lesson launched within pre-schools and Children's Centres across Medway.
- 5.9.10 Working in partnership – Life or Death School Access Initiative, Safety in Action, Schools Parking Initiative, Freshers Fayres, Annual Health and Wellbeing event, Smoke Free Cars and Medway Obesity Summit with Public Health, all successfully contributed to by Road Safety officers during the year.
- 5.9.11 Social Media - Changes to our social media sites, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, from 'Safer Journeys in Medway' to 'Transport for Medway' have taken place to encompass our wider Integrated Transport service updates. At present there are a total of 922 followers on Twitter and an additional 127 unique user likes on Facebook.

6. LOCAL GROWTH FUND TRANSPORT PROJECTS

6.1.1 Four of the projects in the LGF programme are being project managed by the Integrated Transport Service:

- A289 Four Elms Roundabout to Medway Tunnel - Journey time and network improvements;
- Strood town centre - Journey time improvements and accessibility/public realm enhancements;
- Medway City Estate - Connectivity improvement measures;
- Medway Cycling Action Plan - Package of measures with the main focus on improvements to cycle network;

6.1.2 £24.6m was allocated to these four projects from round 1 of the LGF fund. The funding profile for each project is shown in the table below in £m's:

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
A289 FER to Medway Tunnel	0.50	1.10	4.50	5.00	11.10
Strood Town Centre	0.20	1.65	6.65	0.50	9.00
Medway City Estate	0.10	0.40	1.50	N/A	2.00
Cycling Action Plan	0.10	1.10	1.30	N/A	2.50
Total	0.90	4.25	13.95	5.50	24.6

6.1.3 Progress on the LGF transport project and upcoming developments are detailed below:

Project	Progress and Status
A289 FER to Medway Tunnel	Outline design being finalised, with Planning Committee submission anticipated for the end of August. Detailed design work and land purchase negotiations to commence in September. Final planning permission expected in December with construction to commence in 2017.
Strood Town Centre	Outline design for road network and public realm improvements completed and consultation commencing in June. Detailed design to follow, with aim to start construction in 2016/17.
Medway City Estate	Phase 1 works (Anthony's Way junction redesign, new CCTV cameras, new parking enforcements, Maritime Way signal adjustments) completed. Phase 2 works commenced; Medway Tunnel westbound signals and average speed cameras installed, testing to be undertaken.
Cycling Action Plan	Action plan has been consulted upon and commenced. Construction has started on new cycle routes. Phased cycle counter installation to commence 2016/17.

Appendices

None

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Background documents

None